RED COMICS

小學館獨家授權香港中文版

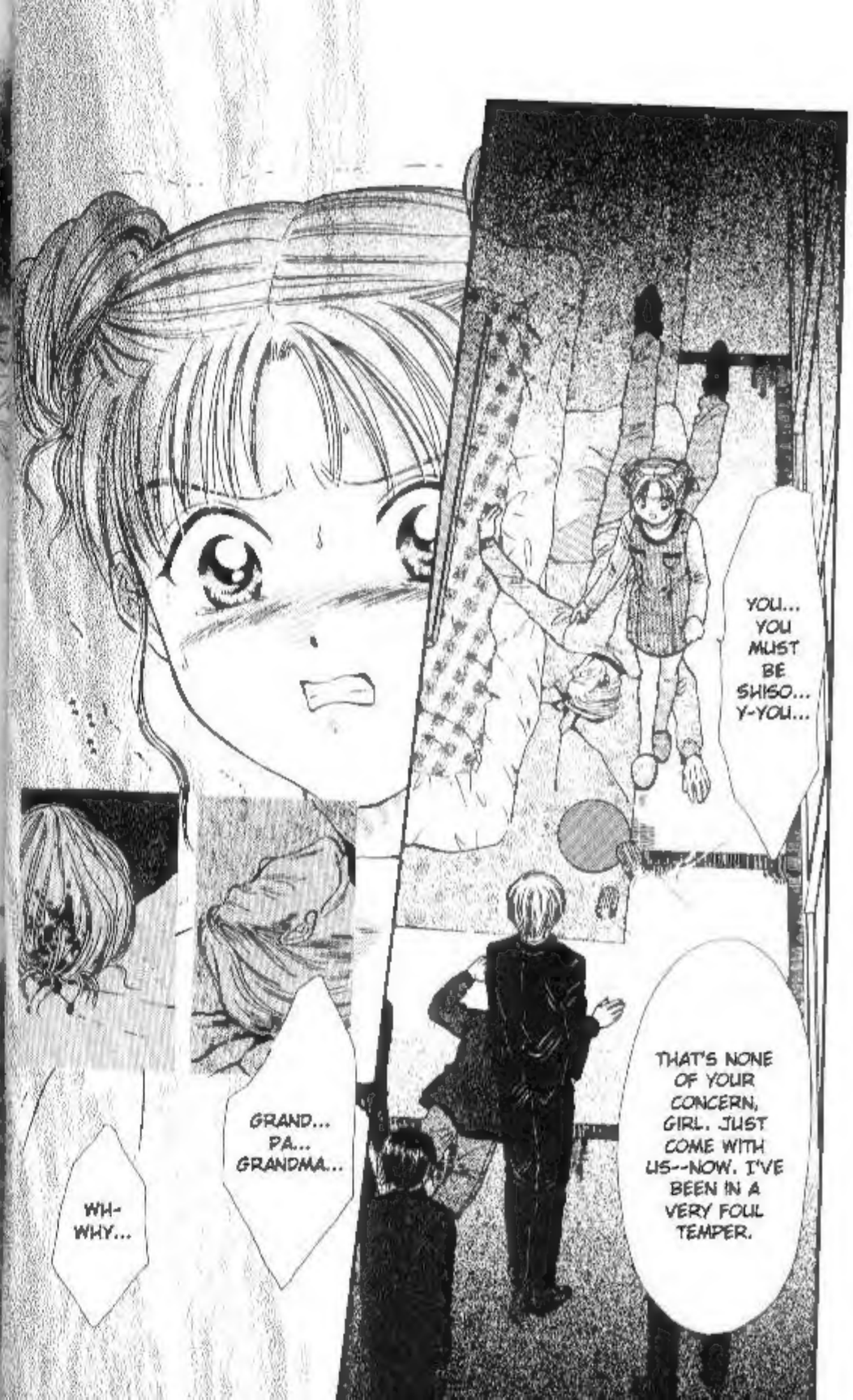
夢幻森林

12

渡瀨悠宇

WATASE Yuu

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO KILL THEM?!


WH-WHY...
GRAND... PA... GRANDMA...
YOU... YOU MUST BE SHISO... Y-YOU...
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR CONCERN, GIRL. JUST COME WITH US--NOW. I'VE BEEN IN A VERY FOUL TEMPER.

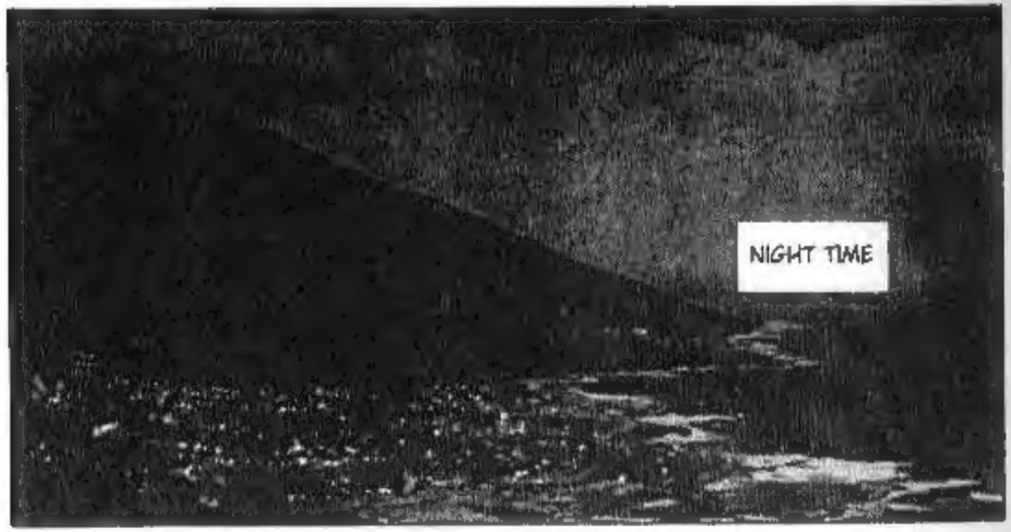
SHOUTA?!
WHAT... ARE THESE PEOPLE?
JUST DO EXACTLY WHAT WE TELL YOU... AFTER ALL, YOU WOULDN'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO THAT CHILD.

BUT THAT POWER ISN'T EFFECTIVE AGAINST US ANYMORE, CHIDORI-SAN.

WAIT... WHAT ARE YOU... GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!
SIS!

I'M SORRY,

!?
THIS PROTECTIVE SHIELD HAS BEEN INFUSED WITH THE POWER OF THE TENNYO... JUST LIKE YOU.



IT'S AN ISLAND ON THE PACIFIC SIDE... A LITTLE SOUTH OF TOKYO, I THINK.

HACHIJOU-JIMA...?

I'VE RECEIVED WORD THAT AYA MIKAGE AND TOOYA ARE ON HACHIJOUJIMA ISLAND. THE MIKAGE FAMILY OWNS A VACATION HOME THERE.

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
UM... OH, HEY, TOOYA...
I'M SORRY IF I WORRIED YOU.
THE SUMMER HOME HERE... AH. I THINK I'M STARTING TO RECALL WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT ISLAND.
... I JUST REMEMBERED! NINE YEARS AGO, I MET YOU ON THAT DESERTED ISLAND... BUT I'D FORGOTTEN.
I WAS ONLY EIGHT YEARS OLD,

TOOYA !!
AH...
YOU HAD FALLEN ILL ON THAT REMOTE ISLAND, AND I HAD A FISHERMAN BRING YOU HERE--
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY, TOOYA!

THEY'VE RETURNED...?
EH?!
I CAN RECALL EVERY-THING... AND I...
THE MEMO-RIES... OF YOUR PAST!!
...DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. AT LAST...
ISN'T THAT WEIRD? BUT THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO, SO... I GET IT!
..BUT IT WAS LIKE YOU ALREADY LOOKED JUST LIKE YOU DO NOW!
MAYBE YOU'RE REALLY THIRTY?....OR MAYBE YOU JUST MATURED EARLY...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, TOOYA WAS ONLY 13 WHEN HE LOOKED LIKE THIS!

?

TOOYA!! IT'S AYA! REMEMBER?! EARTH TO TOOYA--MY NAME IS AYA MIKAGE!
MM-HMMN...
GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF! I STILL REMEMBER EVERY-THING UP TIL NOW JUST FINE!
FINALLY... IT'S ALL FALLING INTO PLACE. THE PERSON I WAS BEFORE FALLING INTO THE EMPLOY OF THE MIKAGE FAMILY...
A LONG TIME AGO... ON A LONG-DESERTED ISLAND...

...AND THE NEXT DAY...
AND THE NEXT DAY...
IT WAS COCOONED IN SOME SORT OF MUCOUS MEMBRANE...
ITS ENTIRE BODY WAS GLOWING FAINTLY, AND ALTHOUGH IT WAS A HUMAN CHILD,
A BABY...?! WHY... WHO... WHAT'N TARNATION'S GOIN ON HERE?
BY PURE CHANCE, AN OLD MAN LIVING IN RECLUSION ON THAT ISLAND DISCOVERED A CHILD...
BUT WHAT SURPRISED THE OLD MAN THE MOST WAS WHAT HE SAW THE NEXT DAY...
THE OLD MAN COULD ONLY WATCH IN STUNNED AMAZEMENT EVERY DAY..... AS THE CHILD CONTINUED TO GROW INSIDE THE MUCOUS MEMBRANE...
....NO WAY
...UNTIL ONE EVENING TEN DAYS LATER, HE AWOKE...

THE OLD MAN GAVE ME MANY THINGS.... LAN-GUAGE.... KNOWL-EDGE....
BUT HE FORBADE ME TO LEAVE THE ISLAND..... BUT THAT WAS PROBABLY FOR THE BEST.
BUT HECK, THERE'S SO MANY MYSTERIOUS THINGS IN THIS WORLD... AHH. BEING A HERMIT'S TAUGHT ME IT TAKES ALL KINDS, Y'KNOW?
WELL, THEN I RECKON WE'LL CALL YOU 'TOOYA'! GOTTA WONDER WHO ABANDONED YOU...
MISTER!

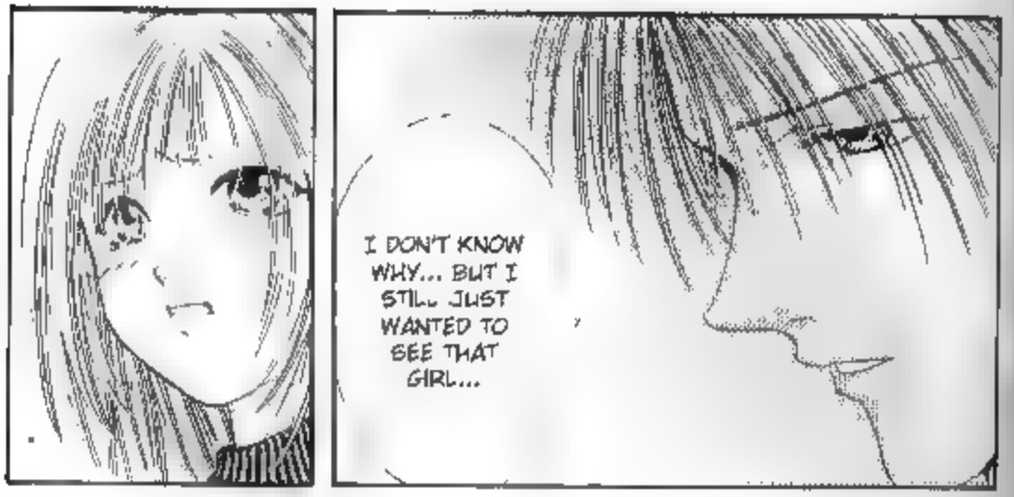
ARE YOU SAYING THAT WAS YOU, TOOYA?!
BUT I WAS THE MAIN CHARACTER.
WHETHER OR NOT IT WAS A FAB-RICATION...
TEN NIGHTS, EH?
IT'S DEFI-NITELY LIKE SOME-THING OUT OF A FAIRY TALE...
WHAT ABSOLUTE NONSENSE!! A HUMAN BEING JUST CAN'T GROW TO ADULTHOOD THAT QUICKLY!

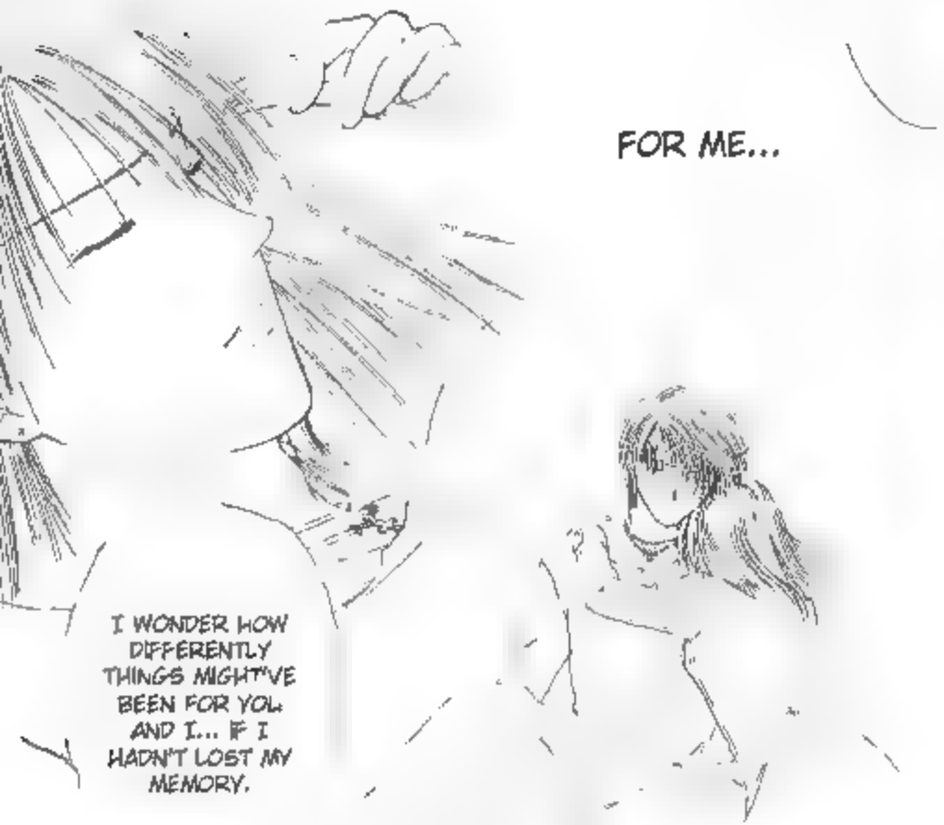
WELL, Bye Bye!
TOOYA... SEE YA LATER!
TOOYA?!
AWW, I'M BUSTED!
AHH! YA MUST BE TH'GIRL! YER DADDY'S GONE RED'N THE FACE LOOKIN FOR YA, YOUNG LADY!

UNTIL THAT DAY....
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN?
CAN'T TALK, HUH?
WELL, I GOT SOMETHIN FOR YA!
WHO...?
TAKE IT...
IT'S YOURS!

..AND THAT PRECIOUS SEASHELL.
SO YOU GOIN TO SEE THAT GIRL?
SAY, TOOYA.. YOU NEED T'MAKE A DECISION BOUTS WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE GOIN TO LIVE IN THE HUMAN WORLD. BE REAL EASY FOR YOU TO JUST STAY HERE ALL BY YOURSELF...
I DON'T KNOW WHO THE OLD MAN WAS...
SEEM I RECALL HER FATHER REFERRED TO HIMSELF AS MIKAGE.. MUST BE TOURISTS FROM TOKYO. RECKON YA DON'T GOT A SNOWBALL'S CHANCE IN HELL OF EVER SEEIN HER AGAIN.
FROM THAT POINT ON, I STARED AT THAT SEASHELL EVERY DAY...
JUST GIVE UP ON 'ER
IT DIDN'T OCCUR TO ME TO EVER LEAVE THE ISLAND... THE IMPERATIVE TO REMAIN WAS INSTILLED TOO STRONGLY, BUT...
I WAITED IN THAT SAME SPOT, AT THAT SAME TIME, EVERY DAY....
SO I LEFT THE ISLAND AND JOURNEYED TO TOKYO... JOINING THE HUMAN WORLD WITH ONLY THE NAME MIKAGE AS A CLUE, WHAT MONEY THE OLD MAN GAVE ME IN HIS LAST MOMENTS...
HE WAS VERY SICK AND MADE HIMSELF A GRAVE SAYING "IT'LL BE ANY DAY NOW"....
...AFTER A WHILE, THE OLD MAN DIED. ...

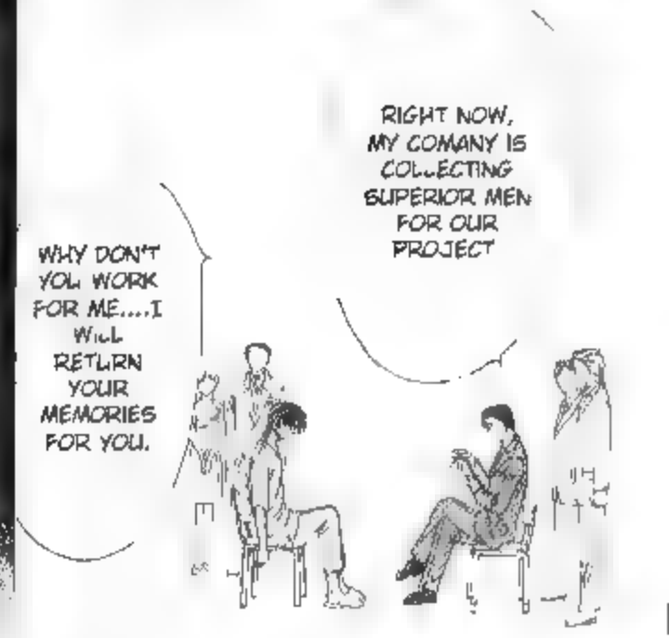
I WAS AFRAID... I WAS ANGRY... AND I FELT LIKE THE WHOLE WORLD WAS MY ENEMY.
HEY, HOLD IT, BUDDY!! DON'T JUST BARGE IN HERE LIKE THAT!
WHO AM I?
MIKAGE
TOOYA
FOR WHAT PURPOSE
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT, BUT WHEN I REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS,
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I FELT A TERRIBLE IMPACT ON MY HEAD.
WHAT'S GOING ON!!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
I HAD BEEN DUMPED OFF IN SOME BUSHES IN A NEARBY PARK.


I DON'T KNOW WHY... BUT I STILL JUST WANTED TO SEE THAT GIRL...


..TO SEE YOU.
FOR ME...
I WONDER HOW DIFFERENTLY THINGS MIGHT'VE BEEN FOR YOU AND I... IF I HADN'T LOST MY MEMORY.

'DON'T TRUST 'ANYONE,' HE TOLD ME. 'AFTER ALL, HUMANS WERE MEANT TO BE ALONE.'
ONCE I BEGAN TO BELIEVE THAT, I STARTED FEELING NOTHING. I EVEN MANAGED TO KILL OFF MY OWN HEART

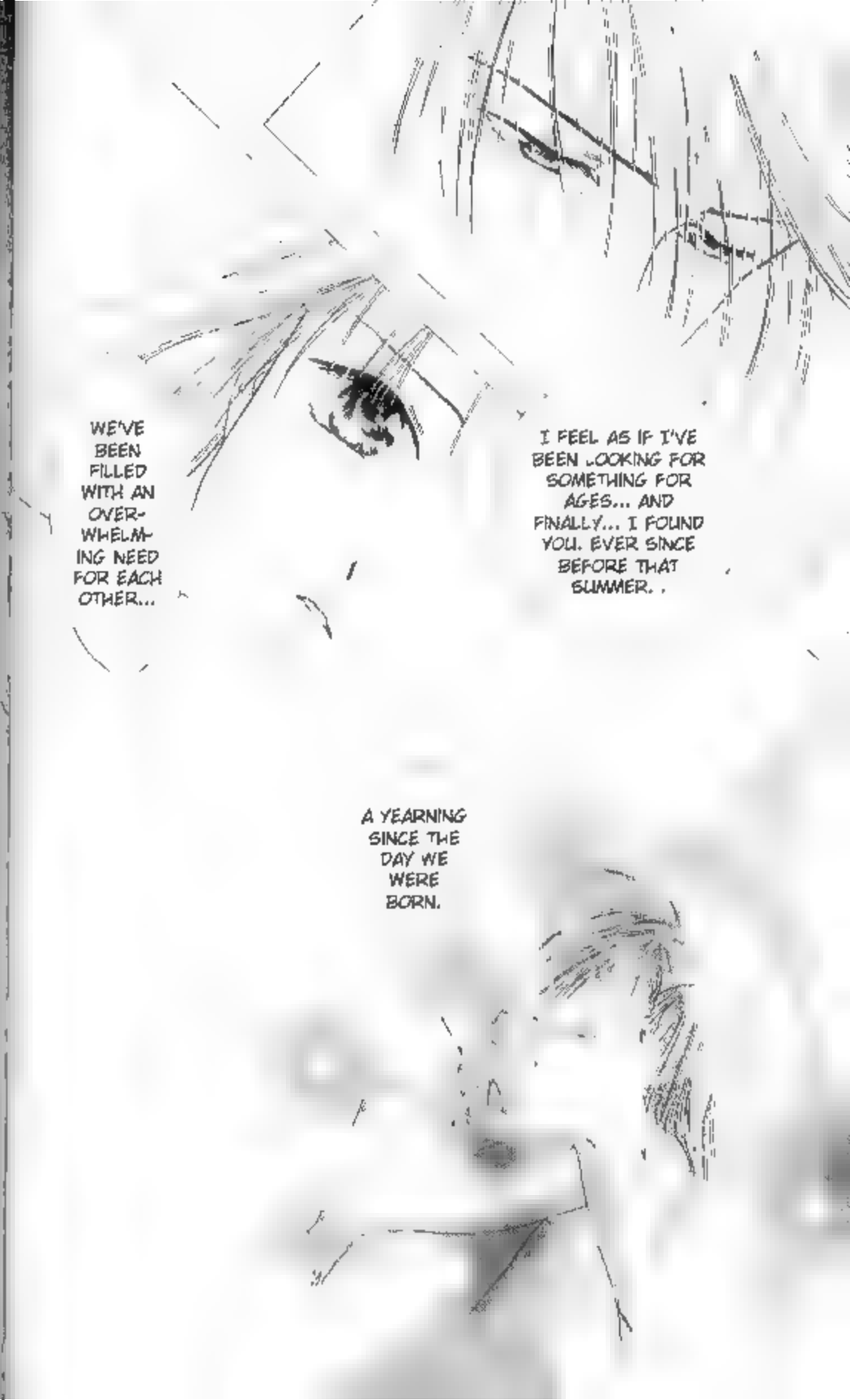
HE SAVED ME....
WHO AM I?!


RIGHT NOW, MY COMANY IS COLLECTING SUPERIOR MEN FOR OUR PROJECT
WHY DON'T YOU WORK FOR ME....I WILL RETURN YOUR MEMORIES FOR YOU.

HE WAS LIKE A SECOND FATHER TO ME. HE TAUGHT ME MANY THINGS... HOW TO USE GUNS... HOW TO FIGHT....

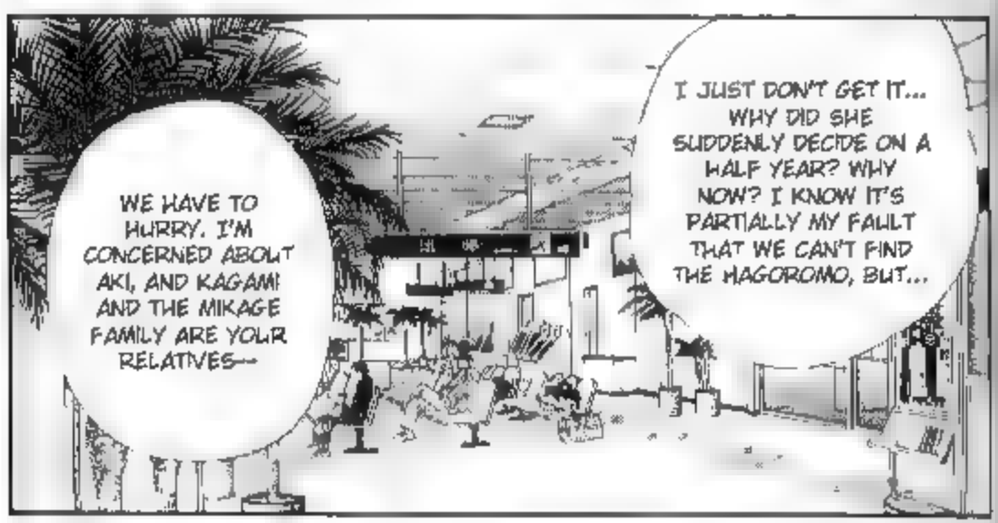
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT WE LIVE OUR LIVES TO THE FULLEST--
I'M NOT ASHAMED OF BEING DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PEOPLE!
AND THAT WE'RE TOGETHER FOREVER!
I FEEL MY DESTINY PULLING ME TOWARDS YOU... AND ONLY YOU.
FOR THE FIRST TIME ..
THAT WE COULD BE TOGETHER... NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES WE FORGET.
NO! YOU COULDN'T HELP IT!
PERHAPS WITHOUT CAUSING EACH OTHER SUCH SUFFERING-- AND MUCH SOONER--
PERHAPS WE DIDN'T HAVE TO BECOME ENEMIES...
AYA .
YOU MIGHT'VE REMEMBERED YOUR OWN PAST SOONER. IT MUST'VE BEEN AWFUL FOR YOU! BUT FROM NOW ON...
IT'S MY FAULT AS WELL... IF I'D REMEMBERED,
I'M NOT NORMAL. EVEN SO, YOU WERE--
EVEN THOUGH I'VE REMEMBERED MY PAST, I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT I AM... AND I STILL DON'T HAVE THE WHOLE STORY.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! IF THAT'S SO, THEN I'M NOT NORMAL EITHER! I'M THE DESCENDANT OF A FRIGGING TENNYO.....NO, THAT'S NOT IT!

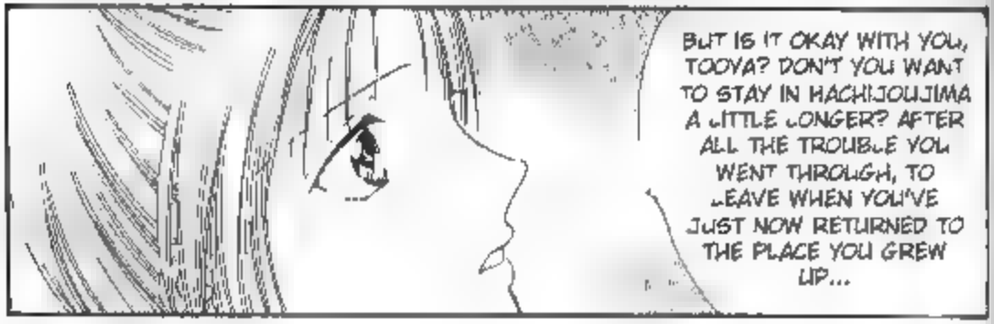
AND THE REAL ME.....AND THEN WE CAN LEAD A NORMAL LIFE.
MY HEART AND BODY HAVE BEEN CONSECRATED TO YOU...
TOOVA
AND IF CERES DISAP-PEARS, THEN SHISO WILL ALSO TURN BACK INTO AKI....SO DON'T GIVE UP HOPE.
SEVEN MORE MONTHS
SO DON'T WORRY.
I WILL FIND THE HAGO-ROMO...


WE'VE BEEN FILLED WITH AN OVER-WHELM-ING NEED FOR EACH OTHER...
I FEEL AS IF I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FOR AGES... AND FINALLY... I FOUND YOU. EVER SINCE BEFORE THAT SUMMER. .
A YEARNING SINCE THE DAY WE WERE BORN.

CERES?!
I'M SORELY DISAPPOINTED. AYA, ARE YOU LISTENING IN ON THIS ALSO?
ME. THE HAGOROMO..?
IF YOU CANNOT FIND THE HAGOROMO IN SEVEN MORE MONTHS---NO, A LITTLE MORE THAN HALF A YEAR--THEN THE PACT BETWEEN US IS VOID... AND I WILL DESTROY EVERY LAST LIVING MIKAGE
A HALF YEAR...?!
THAT OBVIOUSLY INCLUDES SHISO--YOUR BROTHER, AKI DO YOU UNDERSTAND? I WILL OBLITERATE HIM.
EDITED BY PERO-PERO FOR 2M
CERES!
NOW WE KNOW . IT WAS AYA WHO KNEW YOU BEFORE, TOOYA, AND NOT I
I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU SILENTLY IN THE HOPES THAT IF YOU KNEW ME BEFORE, YOU MIGHT KNOW WHERE MY HAGOROMO IS.
NOW, ALL HAS BECOME CLEAR..
UNH...
AYA...
WHA.. CERES?!

IS IT BECAUSE OF WHAT CERES SAID LAST NIGHT?
IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR THE PLANE TO TAKE OFF
HOW ARE YOU? STILL FEELING ILL...?
MMN-HMM...
AYA!


WE HAVE TO HURRY. I'M CONCERNED ABOUT AKI, AND KAGAMI AND THE MIKAGE FAMILY ARE YOUR RELATIVES--
I JUST DON'T GET IT... WHY DID SHE SUDDENLY DECIDE ON A HALF YEAR? WHY NOW? I KNOW IT'S PARTIALLY MY FAULT THAT WE CAN'T FIND THE HAGOROMO, BUT...

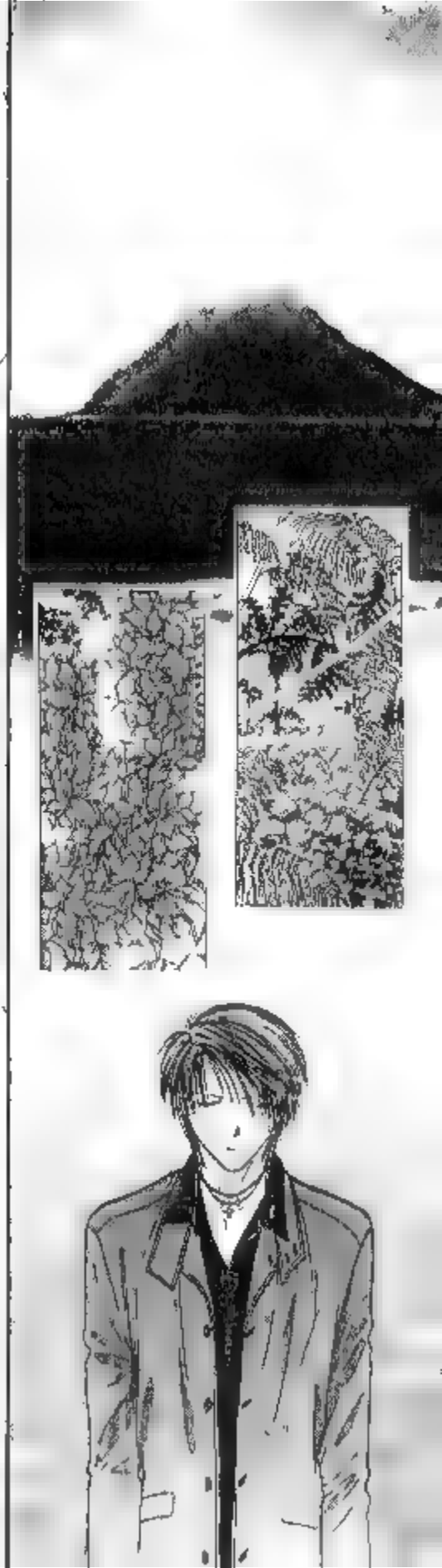

BUT IS IT OKAY WITH YOU, TOOYA? DON'T YOU WANT TO STAY IN HACHIJOUJIMA A LITTLE LONGER? AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE YOU WENT THROUGH, TO LEAVE WHEN YOU'VE JUST NOW RETURNED TO THE PLACE YOU GREW UP...

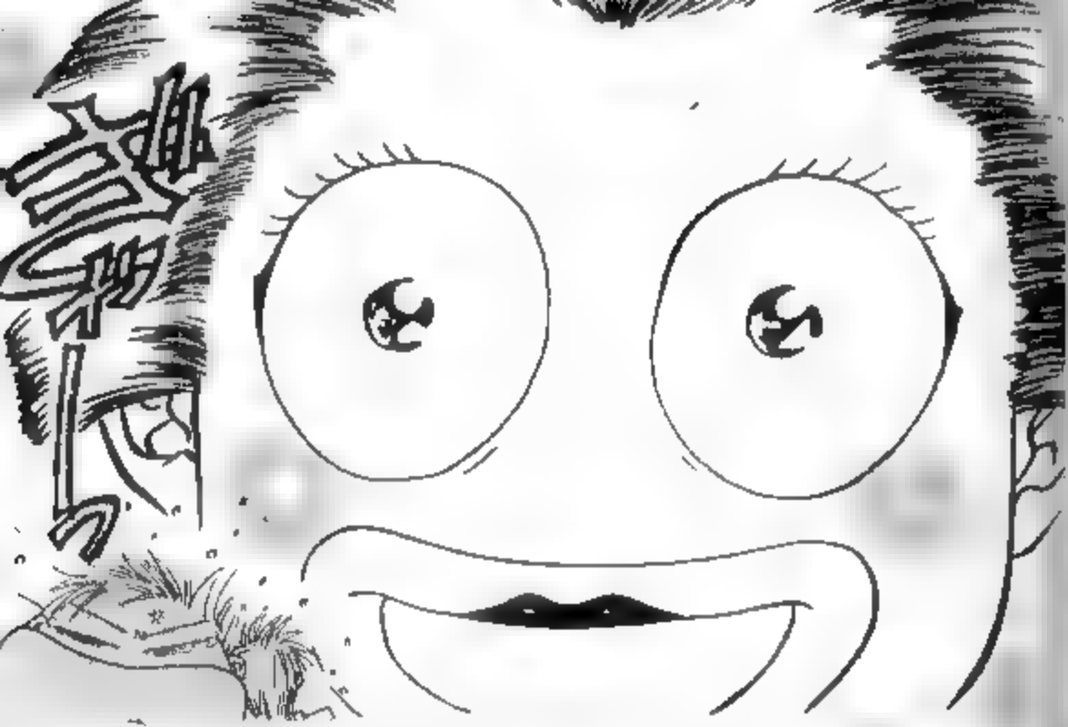
IF YOU DON'T FIND THE HAGOROMO WITHIN HALF A YEAR, I WILL DESTROY THE MIKAGE FAMILY UTTERLY.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND, AYA?

SO I WILL KILL YOUR OLDER BROTHER AKI AS WELL.
SHISO IS THE HATEFUL ONE WHO STOLE THE HAGOROMO FROM ME...
I CANNOT WAIT ANY LONGER THAN HALF A YEAR.
I HAVE WAITED UNTIL NOW ONLY BECAUSE YOU PROMISED TO FIND THE HAGOROMO WITHOUT FAIL. BUT NOW...
...YA...
A HALF YEAR... WHY MUST IT BE A HALF YEAR? HOW COME, CERES?

ALL RIGHT!
LET'S GO.
TOKYO
BUT TOOYA...

WHEN ALL THIS TENNYO NONSENSE IS OVER, I THINK I'LL COME BACK TO VISIT THE OLD MAN'S GRAVESITE...
IT'S OKAY. ALL I HAVE TO DO IS CLOSE MY EYES, AND THE MEMORIES COME BACK AS VIVIDLY AS BEING THERE.
IT'S ENOUGH THAT I WAS ABLE TO REMEMBER HAVING A PLACE TO CALL HOME, AND A PERSON WHO CARED ENOUGH TO HELP ME...
AND TO REALIZE THAT I WASN'T ALONE
WITH YOU.





IF POSSIBLE, I WANT TO REVIEW ALL OF THE NATIONAL HAGOROMO LEGENDS AGAIN. AND WHEN I GOT AHOLD OF SUZUMI, SHE SAID, COINCIDENTALLY ENOUGH, THAT SHE WANTED TO TALK TO US TOO.
WHY ??

WHERE ARE WE GOING FROM HANEDA AIRPORT? AREN'T WE GOING BACK TO NIIGATA?
WE'RE GOING TO STOP BY THE AOGIRI HOUSEHOLD FIRST
AHH... WHAAA AT?!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THIS ONE, SHE'S OFF HER ROCKER.
I'M SOOO EMBARASSED! I KNOW YOU MUST BE FALLING OVER YOURSELF IN AWE, BUT I FEEL BAD FOR AYA--
TOOYA! IT'S ME! MEEE!
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? IT'S A GEISHA OUTFIT. WHEN I HEARD THAT YOU WERE COMING BACK, I DRESSED UP FOR YOU.
KYUU-CHAN! WHAT THE HELL--IS THAT YOUR HALLOWEEN COSTUME?
IF A REAL GEISHA GOT WIND OF THIS, SHE'D BE FURIOUS.
YUUH!...

COME IN, PLEASE!

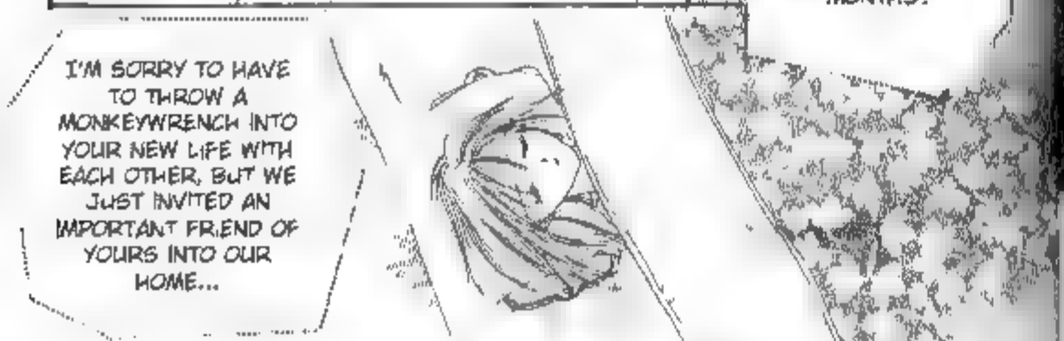
BESIDES, YOU MUST BE EAGER TO SEE EVERYONE AGAIN.

I'M OKAY... JUST A LITTLE ANEMIC.
I'M GLAD I CAME..
OH! YOU'RE FEVERISH...! YOU SHOULD STAY HERE OVERNIGHT.
THAT'S RIGHT! I WON'T PEEP IN ON YOU AND TOOYA IN YOUR BEDROOM...
SHUT THE HELL UP, KYUU!
AYA!
SUZUMI!
YOU'RE BOTH LOOKING FINE. .
YO.
HM. GUESS THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO KICK BACK AND TAKE IT EASY FOR A WHILE...
WHAT AM I, SOME KIND OF MONSTER ?!
EXACTLY! SOMEWHERE DEEP INSIDE, HE'S SMILING JUST LIKE THIS--
DON'T THINK OF ME IN YOUR TERMS! I'M NOTHING LIKE YOU!
HEY HEY! QUIT BRANDISHING THAT UMBRELLA AROUND!
DON'T MIND HIM. HE'S SHY BECAUSE IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE HE'S SEEN AYA. ACTUALLY, HE WAS THE MOST FIDGETY OUT OF ALL OF US.

...MIKAGE INTERNATIONAL IS ONE OF THE LEADING PRIVATE CORPORATIONS IN PIONEERING DEVELOPMENT IN SPACE.
AT THE END OF ONE OF THE TENNYO LEGENDS, THE TENNYO'S HUMAN HUSBAND AND HER CHILDREN WERE SUMMONED TO THE HEAVENS AND CAME TO LIVE THERE WITH HER. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE CAN'T REALLY LAUGH IT OFF AS A FAIRY TALE.
I DON'T KNOW... BUT IT'S A TENNYO'S LIFEFORCE AND... A WING OF SORTS, TO FREE HER FROM THE MORTAL WORLD.
SO THE HAGOROMO IS FOR--
THE MIKAGE FAMILY HAVE A HAGOROMO...
THE MIKAGE FAMILY SEEMS TO BELIEVE THAT THE TENNYO ARE EXTRATERRESTRIALS... ALIENS, ESSENTIALLY. I HAVE TO WONDER...
IF THEY'RE COLLECTING ALL OF THEIR TENNYO DESCENDANTS JUST TO SHIP THE WHOLE COMPANY OFF TO THE STARS
AYA DOESN'T REALLY SHOW HER FEELINGS, BUT SHE MUST BE REALLY SHAKEN RIGHT NOW... BUT I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHY CERES GOT IN SUCH A HURRY ALL OF A SUDDEN.
JUST GOT IT TODAY THEY SEEM TO BE ACQUIRING ANYTHING RELATED TO A HAGOROMO, AND COLLECTING IT. JUST GETTING THIS MUCH WAS DIFFICULT ENOUGH, SO I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY DETAILS,
SO DID YOU GET ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE MIKAGE FAMILY'S RECENT MOVEMENTS?
BUT IT SEEMS THERE ARE ALSO SOME OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE C-PROJECT. IN ADDITION, EVEN THOUGH IT'S A SECRET...
SO CERES REALLY SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

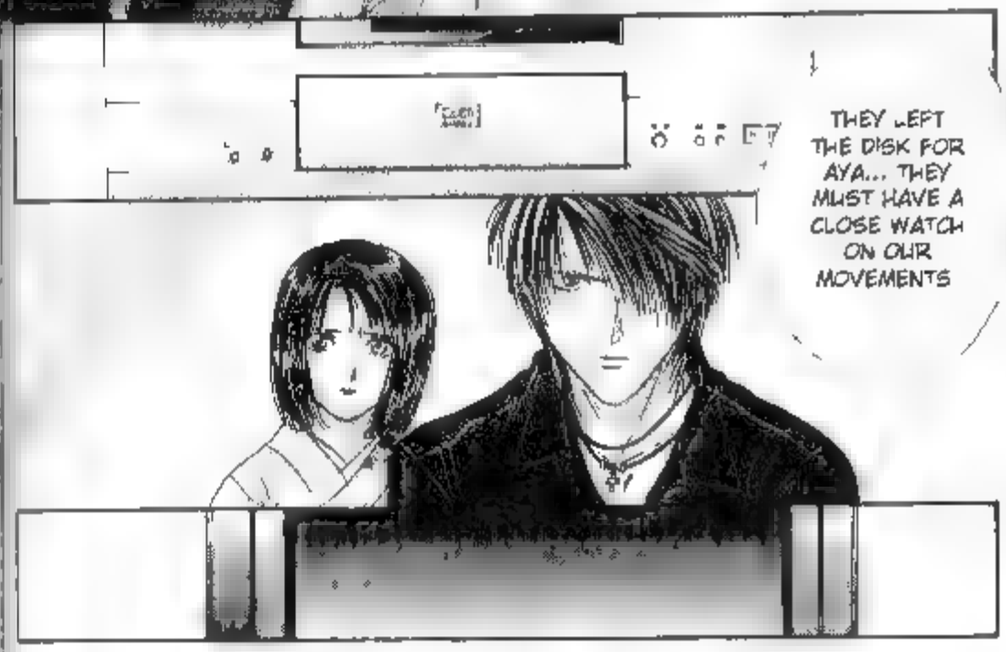
DOING WELL, AYA? SO TOOYA'S THERE WITH YOU TOO, HUH...
SIP

SHISO ...!
HOW'RE YOU DOING? HAVE THE TWO OF YOU HAVE BEEN HAVING FUN THESE PAST FIVE MONTHS?


I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO THROW A MONKEYWRENCH INTO YOUR NEW LIFE WITH EACH OTHER, BUT WE JUST INVITED AN IMPORTANT FRIEND OF YOURS INTO OUR HOME...

OW! GET THE HELL OFF ME!

...A DISK?!
THIS PACKAGE IS FOR AYA.
EXCUSE ME, MA'AM! A MESSENGER FROM THE MIKAGE FAMILY HAS ARRIVED...
!?


THEY LEFT THE DISK FOR AYA... THEY MUST HAVE A CLOSE WATCH ON OUR MOVEMENTS

DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO BE DONE WITH THE C-GENOME?
WELL, AYA... DON'T YOU FEEL SORRY FOR THESE POOR SIBLINGS? CAN YOU LIVE WITH IT AS LONG AS YOU HAVE YOUR OWN HAPPINESS?
AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO AWOKE THIS POWER WITHIN THESE GIRLS?
AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO HAS TO COME HERE?
ARE YOU GOING TO JUST LEAVE YOUR FRIENDS?
AYA... DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!
AYA!! DON'T!! YOU'VE JUST BECOME HAPPY WITH TOOYA AFTER ALL YOUR TROUBLES!! DON'T COME--!!
STOP IT! DON'T YOU TOUCH MY SISTER!
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.
OH, AND TOOYA... YOU COME ALONG, TOO. I'LL TREAT YOU JUST RIGHT.
KAGAMI'S GOING TO USE HER FOR A LITTLE RESEARCH... IT'S ABOUT TIME TO QUIT JUST WATCHING YOU GUYS. AND AYA...
I'LL CHECK ON THAT NOW!!
THAT CAN'T BE! I WAS INFORMED SHE'S BEEN ALL RIGHT AS OF YESTERDAY!
CHIDORI !?
SHOLTA ?!
SIIIS!
AYA!! JUST IGNORE THIS ASSHOLE !!
YOU'LL BE MINE SOONER OR LATER, AS LONG AS YOU'RE CERES--

NO...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SOME-THING LIKE THAT--!!
WE'VE BEEN CARELESS BECAUSE IT'S BEEN SAFE FOR MONTHS NOW...

CHIDORI ..?!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?!
YUUHI! WEREN'T YOU PREPARING DINNER...?

PROBABLY KILLED... JUST LIKE THE REST OF CHIDORI'S FAMILY, EXCEPT FOR SHOUTA.

...WHY? THEY WERE DOING JUST FINE UP UNTIL YESTERDAY... WHAT ABOUT THE BODYGUARDS?

FIND THE HAGOROMO... HURRY ..
I'LL FIND IT... JUST DON'T KILL AKI!
AYA!
UHN...
CERES... NO..
AYA
DON'T...
DON'T TELL AYA ABOUT THIS.
TOOYA ?!

YOU SHOULD TAKE A REST HERE YOU HAVE A SLIGHT FEVER.
NO..
ALL RIGHT THEN, I'LL GO WITH YOU!! WAIT A MINUTE, I'LL CHANGE CLOTHES.
SO TURN AROUND
I FOUND A CLUE ABOUT THE HAGOROMO IN KANAGAWA, AND I WANT TO GO CHECK IT OUT.
I'M WORRIED... YOU'RE GOING TO BE GONE FOR ONE NIGHT...
WHAT'LL YOU DO IF YOU OVERWORK AND GET SICK AGAIN? DOCTOR KUROZUKA'LL TAKE MY HEAD OFF.
BUT...

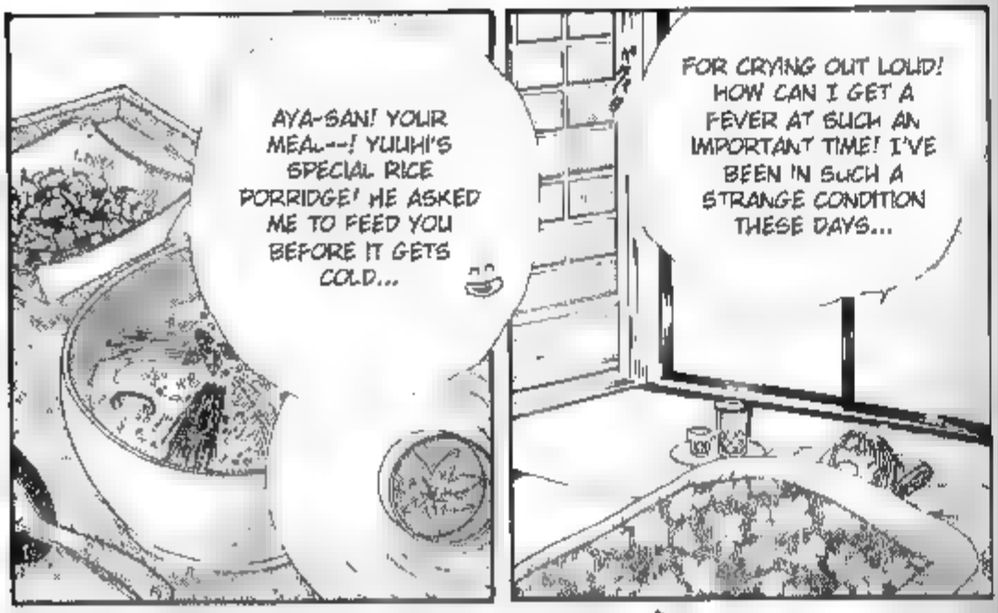
PRETTY GOOD! SORRY FOR WORRYING YOU.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
TOOYA...! SO THAT WAS A DREAM...
AYA...
I'M GOING TO GO OUT FOR A NIGHT.
WHAT?!

HEYYY-- OKAY, I GET IT. DON'T SAY THAT SO SERIOUSLY.
BUT... YOU'VE GOT QUITE A FEW THAT I MADE LAST NIGHT...
I KNOW...
I'VE GOT TO BE GOING NOW.
TOOYA--
TAKE CARE...
I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN SOON.

I PROMISE..
I'LL BE BACK BEFORE THIS DISAPPEARS.

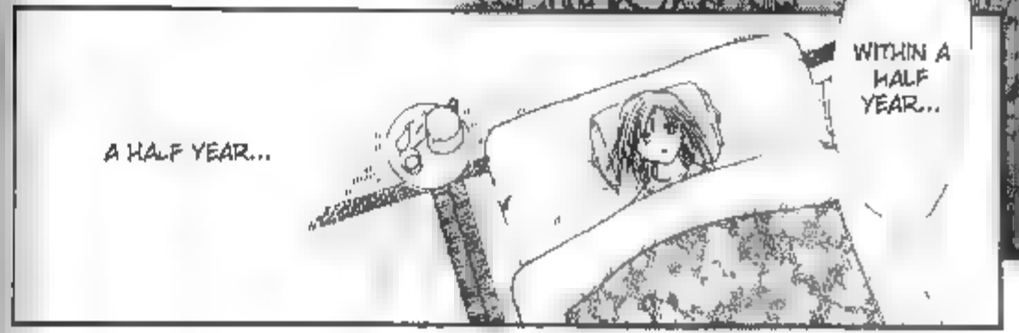
I'M GOING TOO!
YUUKI--WAIT. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR BOTH OF YOU TO TRY AND GET IN THERE.
FOR WHAT THE MIKAGE DID AFTER WE LEFT... I'LL NEVER FORGIVE THEM--OR MYSELF!
I CAN FIGHT, I WON'T BE A DRAG.
I'LL SAVE CHIDORI AND SHOUTA FOR CERTAIN!

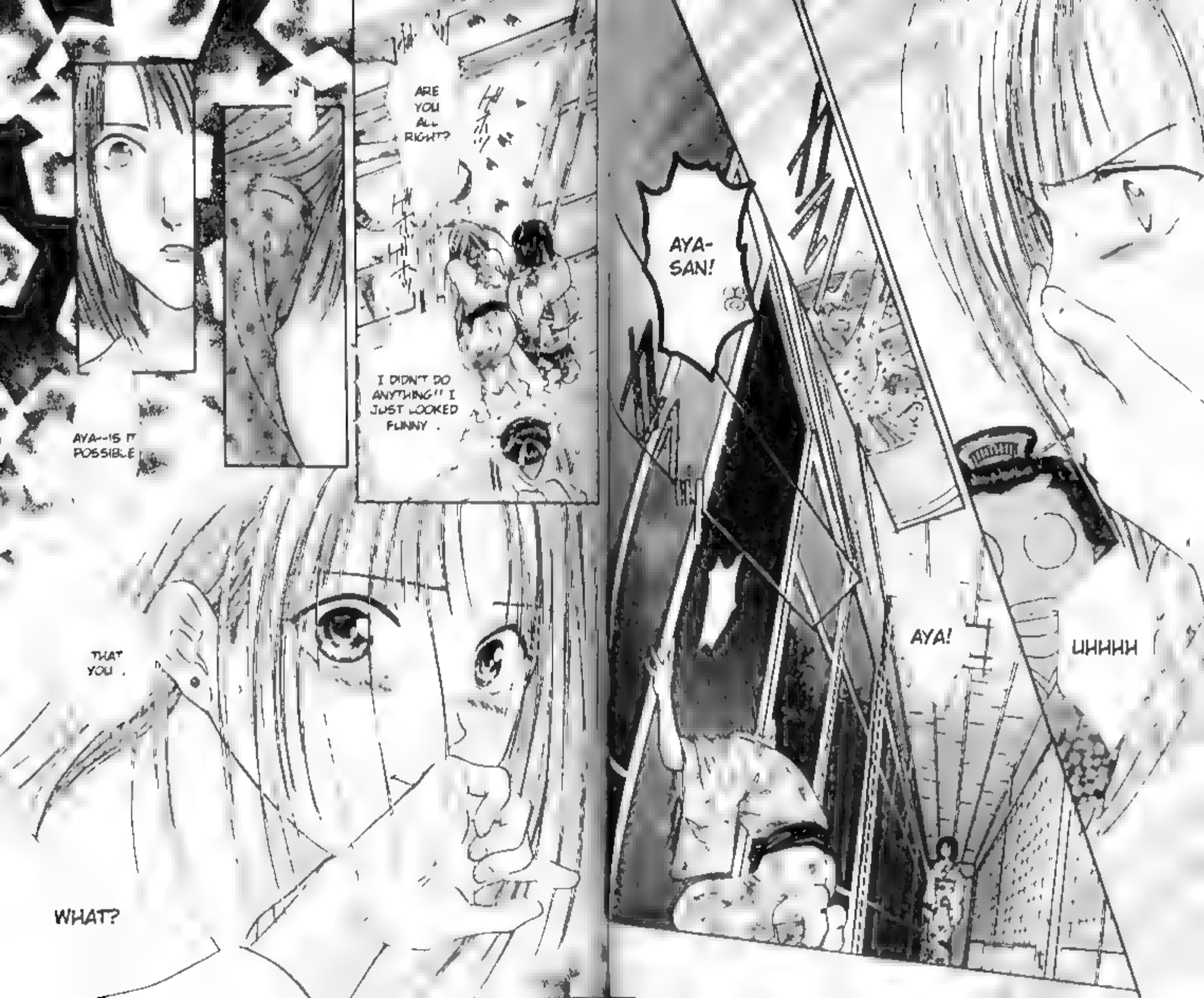
IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.. ISN'T IT.


AYA-SAN! YOUR MEA--! YUUHI'S SPECIAL RICE PORRIDGE! HE ASKED ME TO FEED YOU BEFORE IT GETS COLD...
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD! HOW CAN I GET A FEVER AT SUCH AN IMPORTANT TIME! I'VE BEEN IN SUCH A STRANGE CONDITION THESE DAYS...

UH--
HMM? WHERE IS YUUHI ANYWAY?
ITADA-KIMA...
ANYHOW... WHY DON'T YOU TAKE OFF THAT COSTUME?
WELL--UHM--I HAVE NO IDEA!

THE HAGO-ROMO
IT CAN'T BE HELPED!
IF SO, DO IT NOW! YOU ALWAYS ACT TOO LATE!
I'LL ASK MY FATHER-IN-LAW TO GET THE BEST PROFES-SIONAL--
WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL... THE MIKAGE AREN'T AN ENEMY TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY..


A HALF YEAR...
WITHIN A HALF YEAR...


ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!! I JUST LOOKED FUNNY.
AYA--IS IT POSSIBLE
THAT YOU.
WHAT?
AYA-SAN!
AYA!
UHHHH

TOOYA'S CHILD?!
IS IT TRUE?
AM I HAVING ...
IN A HALF YEAR..
BEFORE THE BABY IS BORN.
A BABY...?
NO. .
SEVEN MONTHS-
-NO, MORE LIKE SIX MONTHS
END OF CHAPTER 2
EDITED BY PERO-PERO FOR 2M
A BABY?
DIDN'T YOU NOTICE IT? WHAT ABOUT YOUR PERIOD?
C-H-I-L-D?
TWO MONTHS...
EH?
BEHIND... AH...

YOU WORTHLESS SON OF A--!! YOU KILLED MY FAMILY... YOU'VE TORMENTED AYA MERCILESSLY!!
YOU... YOU'RE KAGAMI MIKAGE? WHAT THE--!!
I APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION WITH THIS C PROJECT THIS TIME...
YOUR BROTHER SHOUTA IS UNDER OUR EXPERT CARE...
SO PERHAPS YOU'LL BE MORE INCLINED TO BEGIN OUR LITTLE EXPERIMENT, HM?
JUST CONCENTRATE YOUR POWER ON THIS FOSSIL... THAT'S ALL.

A BABY... TOOYA'S...
WELCOME, CHIDORI KURUMA...

THEN HE'S NOTHING BUT AN OBSTACLE NOW. AND IF THAT'S THE CASE... PERHAPS WE SHOULD BRING AKI'S PERSONALITY BACK OUT. OTHERWISE... EH?!
THE MAN WHO STOLE CERES' HAGOROMO... HE'S THE GENESIS OF THIS ENTIRE C PROJECT, AND CERES AS WELL.
MOREOVER, HE'S OUR TRUMP CARD TO LURE AYA, AND CONSEQUENTLY CERES.
THE FOSSIL--!!
ALTHOUGH WE COULD'VE WORKED ON AYA MUCH SOONER IF HE'D REMAINED AKI, WE COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE PREDICTED THAT THE REAL SHISO WOULD FULLY EMERGE IF SHISO NO LONGER HOLDS ANY USEFULNESS AS FAR AS THE HAGOROMO IS CONCERNED.
HE'S WITH SHISO? RECENTLY, SHISO HAS BECOME OMINOUSLY COMPLIANT. HE'S BEEN UNUSUALLY AGREEABLE TO ALL OF OUR ORDERS, BUT--I DON'T THINK HE KNOWS ABOUT THIS RECREATION OF THE HAGOROMO.
CORRECT.
SHOUTA KURUMA.
IF THIS FOSSIL METAMORPHOSES INTO A HAGOROMO, IT COULD BE A POWERFUL SAMPLE INDEED.
WE'LL HAVE A NEW HAGOROMO BEFORE TOO LONG... WITHOUT HAVING TO ASK SHISO WHERE CERES' IS.
WHAT WE NEEDED, WEI, WAS "AKI MIKAGE" AS THE "REINCARNATION" OF SHISO. IT'S EASIER TO RALLY AN ORGANIZATION WHEN THEY HAVE A SYMBOLS OF SORTS.
YOU MEAN.. WE DON'T NEED SHISO ANYMORE?

EXCEL-LENT! BRING THE HAGO-ROMO TO B-ROOM NOW!
SUCCESS!
CHIEF!
AND HERE I WAS PLANNING ON LETTING HER REST FOR A WHILE BEFORE-HAND..
.....
OI
TOOYA AND THE AOGIRI FAMILY... COMING HERE ..?

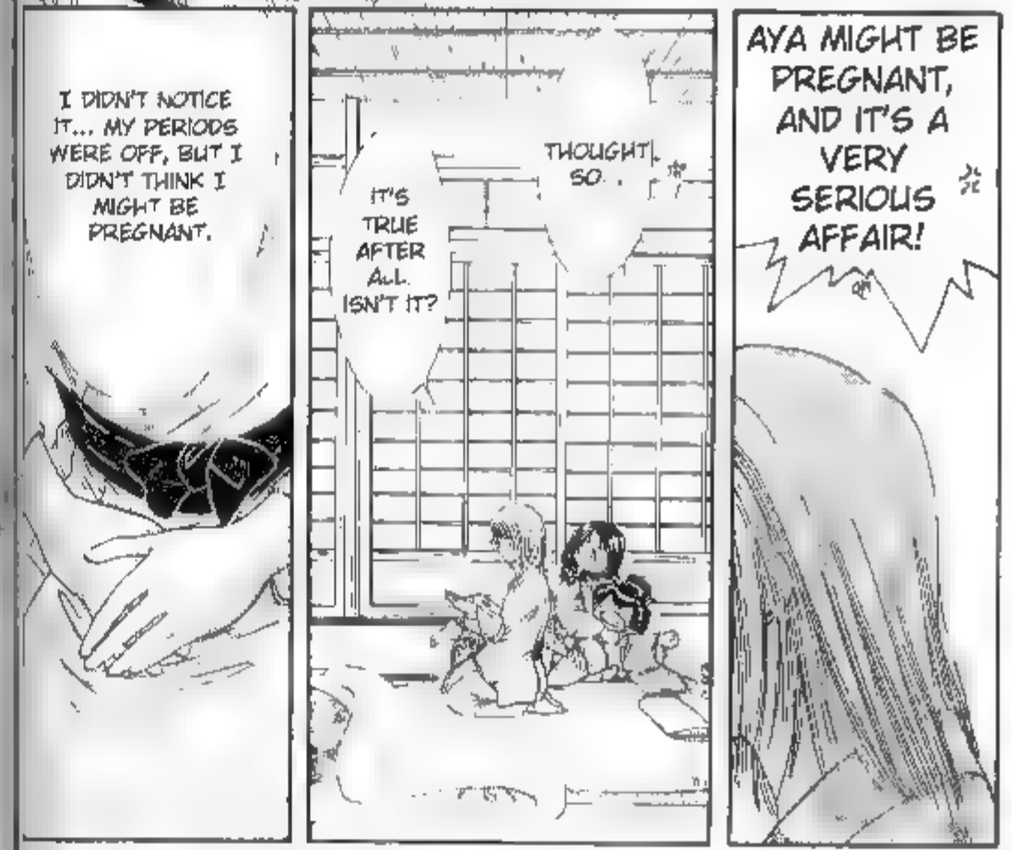
IT'S BEYOND ANY COMPARI-SON FOR TYPE B, IS WHAT IT IS!
AMAZING... THAT SHE COULD MUSTER THIS MUCH POWER IS SIMPLY...!

SURGERY...
!!
NO!!
LET ME GO!! SHOUTA!! SHOUUUT AA--!!
IT'S NO USE! SHE'S BEEN LIKE THIS FOR TWO HOURS, 15 MINUTES, 21 SECO--
ぱたぱた
...AYA!
AYA?!

THIS WAY.
WHAT?!
...SHOUTA.
..
NOT YET
ISN'T THIS MESS DONE WITH ALREADY?
YOU HAVE AN IMPORTANT SURGERY TO UNDERGO, SO...

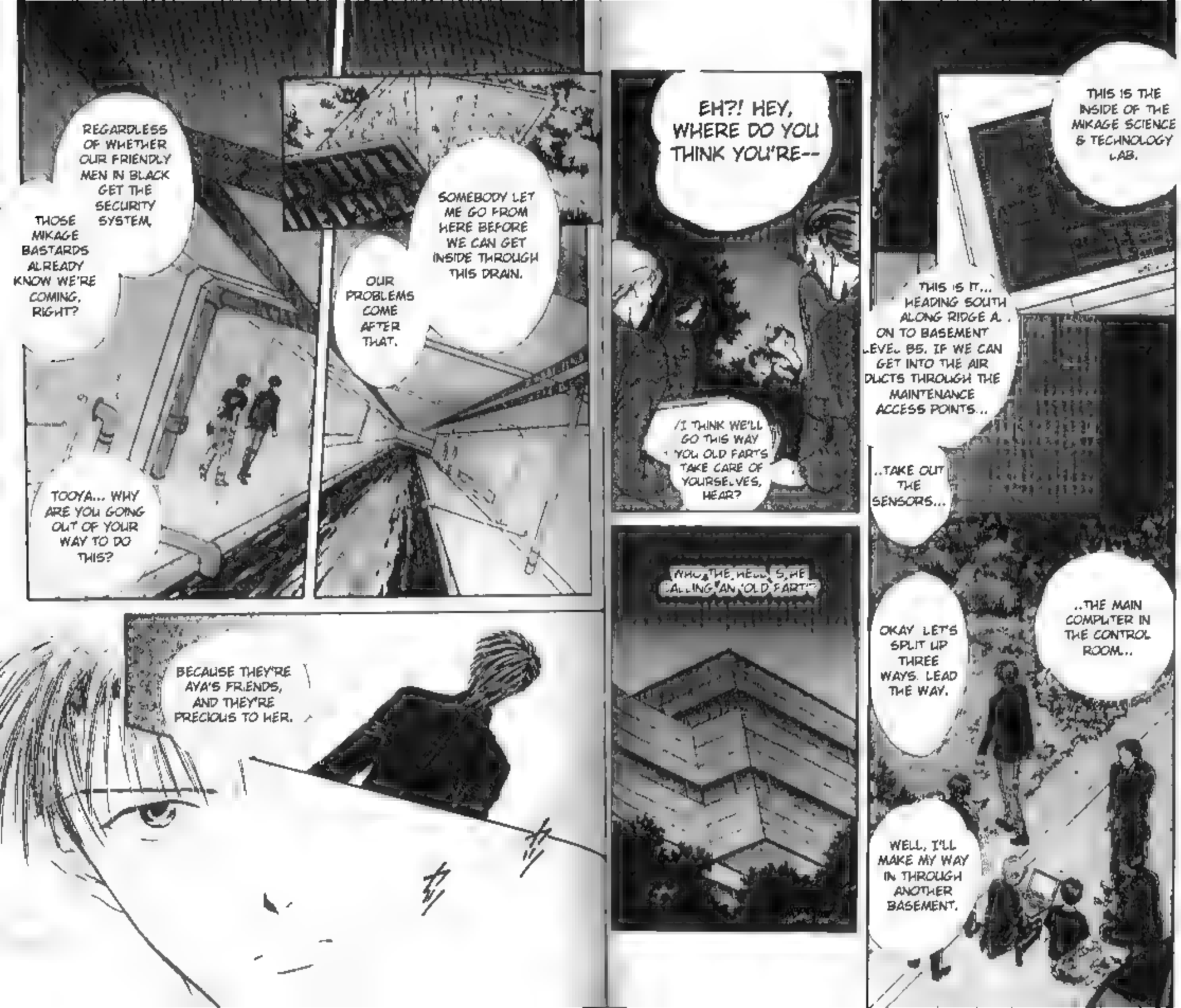
AYA...
WHAT AM I SAYING? THAT'S COMPLETELY NATURAL...
I SUPPOSE IT WASN'T EXACTLY A SHOCK... MORE LIKE A KIND OF WONDER.
THAT I COULD HAVE ANOTHER LIFE GROWING INSIDE ME AS WE SPEAK.
IT JUST DOESN'T FEEL REAL...
IT'S TOOYA'S CHILD... THAT WE CONCEIVED IN UNITY ..

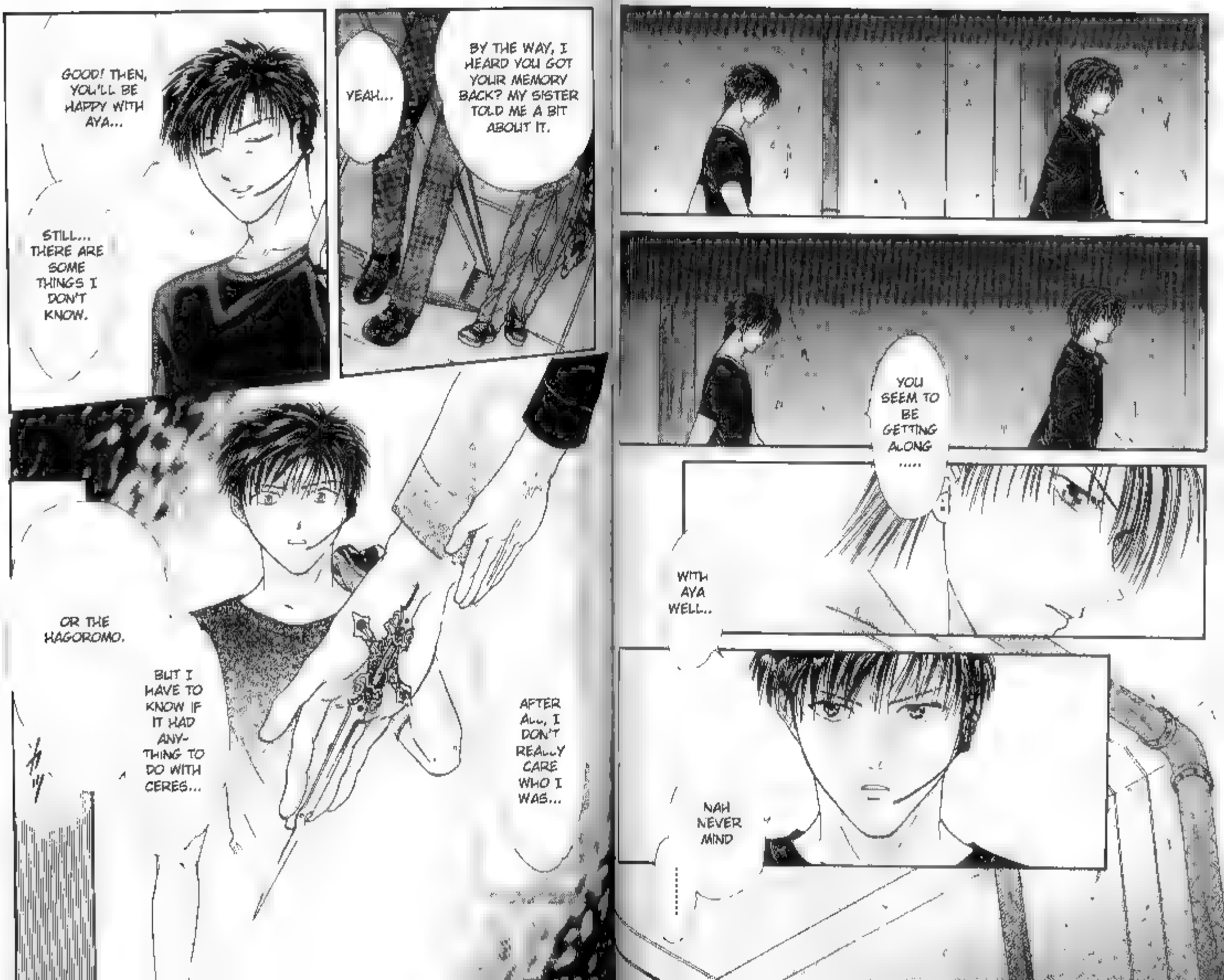
DON'T DO SOMETHING SO POINTLESS!
*MAYBE SHE'LL MISTAKE ME FOR NORIKA FUJIWARA INSTEAD...
SHE WON'T BE SURPRISED BY SEEING YOU UP CLOSE ANYMORE.
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING JUST NOW?


I DIDN'T NOTICE IT... MY PERIODS WERE OFF, BUT I DIDN'T THINK I MIGHT BE PREGNANT.
IT'S TRUE AFTER ALL, ISN'T IT?
THOUGHT SO.
AYA MIGHT BE PREGNANT, AND IT'S A VERY SERIOUS AFFAIR!

* FUJIWARA NORIKA IS A FAMOUS--AND VERY BEAUTIFUL--JAPANESE ACTRESS

IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT TOOYA AND THE OTHERS GOT TO THE MIKAGE LABORATORY. I CAN'T TELL AYA THAT THEY WENT TO SAVE CHIDORI AND SHOUTA.
AYA'S HAVING TOOYA'S CHILD..
I HOPE THEY ALL SAFE--!
I'M GONNA BRING YOU SOMETHING HOT TO DRINK.. IT MIGHT SETTLE YOU DOWN A BIT.
KYAAA!
IT'LL BE OKAY! LET'S GO TO THE GYNECOLOGIST TOGETHER TOMORROW. IT'S NOT CERTAIN YET!
AYA! IT'S NOT SCARY AT ALL!
NO... IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT IT, OR THAT I'M SCARED... IT'S JUST... HOW CAN I EXPLAIN...
TOOYA'S BABY...
TOOYA'S... AND MINE...


REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OUR FRIENDLY MEN IN BLACK GET THE SECURITY SYSTEM,
THOSE MIKAGE BASTARDS ALREADY KNOW WE'RE COMING, RIGHT?
SOMEBODY LET ME GO FROM HERE BEFORE WE CAN GET INSIDE THROUGH THIS DRAIN.
OUR PROBLEMS COME AFTER THAT.
TOOYA... WHY ARE YOU GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY TO DO THIS?
BECAUSE THEY'RE AYA'S FRIENDS, AND THEY'RE PRECIOUS TO HER.
EH?! HEY, WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE--
/I THINK WE'LL GO THIS WAY YOU OLD FARTS TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES, HEAR?
WHO THE HELL'S HE CALLING AN 'OLD FART'?
THIS IS THE INSIDE OF THE MIKAGE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY LAB.
THIS IS IT... HEADING SOUTH ALONG RIDGE A. ON TO BASEMENT LEVEL B5. IF WE CAN GET INTO THE AIR DUCTS THROUGH THE MAINTENANCE ACCESS POINTS...
..TAKE OUT THE SENSORS...
OKAY LET'S SPLIT UP THREE WAYS. LEAD THE WAY.
..THE MAIN COMPUTER IN THE CONTROL ROOM...
WELL, I'LL MAKE MY WAY IN THROUGH ANOTHER BASEMENT.


GOOD! THEN, YOU'LL BE HAPPY WITH AYA...
STILL... THERE ARE SOME THINGS I DON'T KNOW.
YEAH...
BY THE WAY, I HEARD YOU GOT YOUR MEMORY BACK? MY SISTER TOLD ME A BIT ABOUT IT.
OR THE HAGOROMO.
BUT I HAVE TO KNOW IF IT HAD ANY-THING TO DO WITH CERES...
AFTER ALL, I DON'T REALLY CARE WHO I WAS...
YOU SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG .....
WITH AYA WELL..
NAH NEVER MIND
.....

TOOYA AND THE OTHERS SEEM TO HAVE REVEALED THEMSELVES. STILL NO SIGN OF AYA MIKAGE WITH THEM, THOUGH.
MASTER!

DON'T MAKE A FOOL OUT OF ME! I'VE BEEN USEFUL!
MORE IMPORTANTLY HOW CAN I MAKE EXCUSES TO AYA IF YOU GET YOUR SORRY ASS IN TROUBLE! I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF!
AOGIRI, YOU WAIT UNTIL I COME BACK WITH CHIDORI AND SHOUTA.
WE'RE HERE.

YOU'VE PROTECTED AYA MUCH BETTER THAN I HAVE
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT ..
SORRY. LET'S GO.

JUST BRING TOOYA TO ME... ALIVE!
ALL RIGHT! I COULD CARE LESS ABOUT THE REST OF THOSE FOOLS.
YUUH!... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH, I'M FINE. I'M GOING DOWN TO 4B NOW.

YOU LITTLE BRAT!
OWWW
AHHHH

AHHHHHH!!!
WHERE ARE CHIDORI AND SHOUTA KURUMA?
UH... AH ..
5B4B
KYAAA--!

CHIDORI ...!!
AOGIRI ...!
DID YOU KILL THEM?
OF COURSE NOT THEY FAINTED DEAD AWAY WHEN I THREATENED THEM WITH FORCE.
THIS GUY IS WAY TOO CALM ABOUT THIS ...
WHAA!
KEEP ONE. AIM FOR THE ARMS OR LEGS IF YOU HAVE TO USE IT.
OFF-GUARD. THEY CAUGHT ME OFF-GUARD.
DID YOU TAKE CARE OF THE OTHERS? I FOUND OUT WHERE CHIDORI IS.
OPERATING ROOM?! CHIDORI? WHY?!

IT'S OKAY NOW... WE CAN GO HO...
YUU... HI..?
TOO BAD, TOOYA...
WEI...! YUUH!
DON'T MOVE, OR I'LL PLUCK YOUR ARM OFF LIKE A TWIG.
WELCOME, TOOYA...
MMNN ...
CHIDORI! WAKE UP, IT'S ME!
CHIDORI !!

I'LL BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF IF YOU DON'T TAKE ME TO WHERE SHOUTA IS.
WAIT--
WE!
ALL RIGHT! I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU WHERE WE CAME IN!

CHIDORI... YOU OKAY?
... YEAH ...
SHOUTA'LL BE ON HIS WAY TOO, SOON!

AOGIRI, GO!
I'LL FOLLOW AFTER I RESCUE SHOUTA... GET GOING!

BUT--
DON'T WORRY! I'M ALL RIGHT!
I PROMISED AYA I'D COME BACK SOON!
.....

BOTH OF YOU, RUN!!
WHOA... THE OLD GEEZERS ...

END OF CHAPTER 3
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OF COURSE! THERE, WE'LL BE THERE SOON!
BUT... I'M GLAD.. YOU CAME TO SAVE ME... EVEN THOUGH IT WAS JUST ME, YUUH.
I DON'T KNOW . THEY ANES- THE- TIZED ME ..
BUT WHAT'S WITH THIS OPERATION? WHAT THE HE.. DID THEY DO TO YOU?
MM- HMM..

HEY!! WAKE UP...
CHIDORI !!
AWWW... I WAS TRYING TO SHOOT HIM... WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?

YOU BASTARD!! I'LL--
YOU... HAD A GUN...!?

YOUR IN MY WAY, MAN... GIVE HER TO ME SO I CAN GET HER TREATED!
I ENDED UP SHOOTING ONE OF THE C-GENOMERS.. THE CHIEF GONNA BE PISSED!
ALL 'CAUSE YOU TRIED TO RUN AWAY.. THIS SUCKS!
SELAMAT TIDUR. (GOOD NIGHT)

DON'T!
YUU... HI... YOU'RE NOT... THE KIND OF PERSON... WHO'D DO THIS!
CHIDORI . . .!
SHOUTA KURUMA IS HERE.
WHAT?
I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING, TOOYA... AND THAT'S THAT YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
HE'S DONE EVERYTHING HE CAN TO KEEP YOU ALIVE. EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE HIGHLY REGARDED HERE, YOU'VE THROWN IT AL--
YOU'VE GOTTEN THIS FAR, BUT THE CHIEF HAS RESPONSIBILITIES, AND HE WON'T BE ABLE TO COVER FOR YOU THIS TIME.

AHHH
SEN S-EEEE!
HEY--THAT WAS RIGHT OUTSIDE THE DOOR!!
WEI ..?!

YOU SHOULD LEARN TO FINISH OFF YOUR ENEMIES, TOOYA. .
AGREED. . IN EXCHANGE FOR YOU.
HMPH. TOOYA KIRITANI... TOOYA MIZUKI... JUST HOW MANY NAMES DO YOU HAVE?
PUT THE GUN DOWN, TOOYA.
SHOUTA...
I KNEW IT! KIRITANI-SENSEI!
SHISO...!
LET THE KID GO. SHOUTA HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS... LET HIM GO!
SENSEEEI!
.....
LET SHOUTA GO... SHISO! I WON'T RUN AWAY! I WON'T! LET HIM GO!
SENSEI! SENSEI! DON'T GIVE UP!
.....

GO !!
HEY, KID--
IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP AND GO, I MIGHT CHANGE MY MIND.
SENSEI... PLEASE COME BACK, ALL RIGHT?
PROMISE ME?

I'M ALL RIGHT--AFTER ALL, I'M A DOCTOR! I'M NOT GOING TO DIE FROM THIS. YOUR WALKING HAS IMPROVED SO MUCH... YOU'LL DO JUST FINE AT PROTECTING YOUR SISTER. NOW GO... QUICKLY! FOR YOUR SISTER'S SAKE!
SENSEI! ARE YOU OKAY?!
I ALSO HAVE AN IMPORTANT PERSON WAITING FOR ME RIGHT NOW.
I WANT TO LIVE FOR HER SAKE. SO YOU SHOULD FOR YOUR SISTER'S...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, SHOUTA. JUST GO BY YOURSELF, AND QUICKLY! AFTER YOU GO DOWN THE HALLWAY, TAKE THE ELEVATOR ON THE LEFT. I STILL HAVE A FEW THINGS TO DO--
BUT SENSEI... LOOK AT HOW MUCH YOU'RE BLEEDING!

EH?!
SHIT!! I CAN'T HEAR HIM AGAIN! HEY CHIDORI, CHEER UP... TOOYA SAID SHOUTA'S BEEN FREED!
AFTER I'VE SAVED CHIDORI, I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU! HOW'S SHOUTA?
DON'T BOTHER. SHOUTA'S ALREADY BEEN FREED JUST FINE..
AND .. TOO... YA. . ALSO?
HUH? YEAH! HE'S TOUGH LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW!
THAT'S GOOD... IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO TOOYA... AYA WOULD... TELL HER SHE SHOULDN'T CRY ANYMORE... SHE OUGHT TO BE HAPPY.
YOU CAN TELL HER YOURSELF, CHIDORI... SHE'S STAYING WITH US NOW. SHURO ALSO SAID SHE COULD TAKE SOME TIME OFF, DIDN'T SHE? LET'S ALL GO TO KARAOKE AGAIN!

TOOYA, CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
AHH...
IN A HEARTBEAT, YOU TARGETED EVERYONE'S WEAK POINTS, TOOYA... AND ACCURATELY, AT THAT
WE'LL BE REACHING THE BASEMENT WATERWAYS SOON...
BUT CHIDORI'S BEEN SHOT!!
I THINK I WANT TO TRY IT OUT FOR MYSELF NOW. STAND UP, TOOYA.
GUNS... I'VE NEVER USED THEM, BUT THEY SEEM TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE POWER.
TOOYA!!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I THINK. . YOU'D LIKE IT BETTER... IF I STAYED IN MY TENNYO FORM? YOU DON'T LIKE THE CHILDISH LOOK... DO YOU?
YOU'RE ATTRACTIVE ENOUGH JUST THE WAY YOU ARE!
SAY... YUUHI... YOU DIDN'T KNOW, DID YOU...
THAT I'VE... BEEN. . ABOUT YOU,
THAT IS...
FOR A LONG TIME...

ALL RIGHT THEN! I'LL LET YOU EAT MY FAVORITE FOOD EVERY DAY... YOU CAN COME BACK AND MOOCH OFF ME AGAIN.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING FOR YOU, INCLUDING SHOUTA. YOU SHOULD TRANSFER TO A SCHOOL NEAR WHERE I LIVE! IT'S SETTLED!
SOUNDS GOOD...
TO ME... BEFORE THAT, I WANT TO HAVE SOME MORE OF YOUR COOKING.. . A LOT...
OKAY! I CAN COOK ANYTHING. WHAT DO YOU WANT?
ANYTHING... THAT YOU LIKE TOO, YUUHI.

OH? THEN YOU SHOULD HOLD ONTO ME TIGHTER!
BUT .. YOU'RE WARM... SO...
I DUNNO WHY... BUT... I'M REALLY COLD.

CHIDORI?
HEY...
HEY DON'T START SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT GONNA FINISH! CHIDORI... SPIT IT OUT! I KNOW YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO TALK ABOUT! I'M LISTENING!
G.. GOD DAM N IT..
HEY
HEY!

HUH?

..FOR... A LONG... TIME...

CHIDORI ...?
'FOR A LONG TIME' WHAT?

TOOYA'LL BE SURPRISED WHEN HE COMES BACK... WHAT SHOULD I TELL HIM?
AND...
I'LL KNOW FOR SURE WHEN I GO TO THE HOSPITAL TOMORROW
HOW IS HE GOING TO REACT TO IT?
WHAT'S THIS FEELING... UNEASINESS?
NO... IT'S BECAUSE IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I SPENT A NIGHT WITHOUT TOOYA
AH--
GODDAM-
~~~
MIIIIIIIIT!
~~~

WHERE IS THE HAGOROMO?
WHAT?
EVEN THOUGH MANY PEOPLE HAVE DIED BEFORE MY EYES SO FAR, THIS BABY IS GOING TO BE BORN. EVEN NOW, IT'S GROWING INSIDE OF ME...
I WANT TO HAVE THIS BABY... FOR ITS OWN SAKE.... TOOYA..
THE HAGOROMO. I KNOW THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO MANUFACTURE THEM IN THIS LABORATORY.

I'M ONLY 17... AND MY SITUATION IS DIFFICULT TO SAY THE LEAST... AND I'M A LITTLE SCARED.
I WANT TO KEEP IT.
NOT ONLY DOES IT TIE US TOGETHER AS ONE... BUT IT'S ALSO A PRECIOUS LIFE.
AND I MYSELF WAS SURPRISED. THIS CHILD IS PROOF OF THE LOVE THAT I HAVE WITH SOMEONE SPECIAL.
IS HE GOING TO BE ANGRY? IS HE GOING TO SAY "DON'T HAVE IT"?
BUT... I THINK...

STOP RETREATING INSIDE OF SHISO...
AYA HAS BEEN WAITING FOR YOU...
WEI! KAGAMI-- WHERE IS KAGAMI?
NOT ONLY AYA... BUT EVERYONE ELSE RELATED TO THE MIKAGE FAMILY.
AKI...
GIVE IT BACK TO CERES... TO AYA! THE HAGOROMO BELONGS TO THE TENNYO! GIVE IT BACK!
WHY DON'T YOU RELEASE HER FROM THIS BLOOD-SOAKED CURSE?!
NOW I SEE .. KAGAMI YOU SON OF A BITCH..
DON'T SPEAK ANOTHER WORD ABOUT MY WOMAN.

OR MAYBE HE'S GOING TO BE..
NAH.. IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY. TOOYA WILL SMILE...
I WAS GOING TO LET YOU LIVE IN ORDER TO LURE AYA HERE--
...AYA.
AND HE'LL SAY "LET'S HAVE IT".
ALL RIGHT! YOU WANT TO DIE SO BADLY, TOOYA?

SHUT UP!
COME BACK TO HER--AKI! COME BACK TO YOUR SISTER!
I SAID SHUT THE FUCK UP!
NOW... ONLY YOU... CAN SAVE...
AKI...! GIVE THE MAGO-ROMO... BACK TO AYA...!

...THE HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD.
AYA!!

THAT CAN'T HAPPEN!
EVERYBODY WAS ALIVE!!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
OF COURSE THEY'RE GOING TO COME BACK!
SAY IT!! SAY THEY'RE STILL ALIVE!!
THAT THEY'RE GOING TO BE... BACK...
ALIVE...

WHERE ARE THE REST OF YOU GUYS?

IT'S ALREADY PAST THE SCHEDULED RENDEZ-VOUS TIME... THEY PROBABLY WON'T BE BACK.

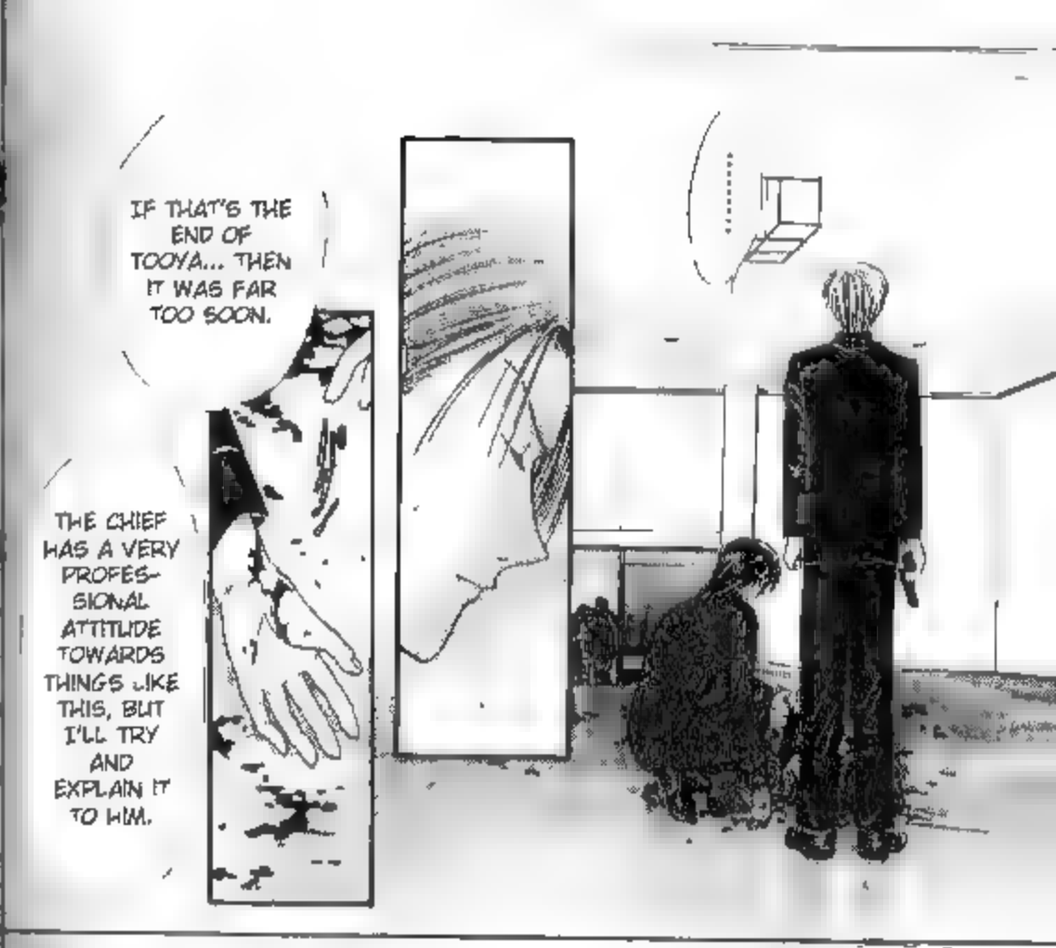
YUUHI... ONIICHAN!
SHOUTA?!

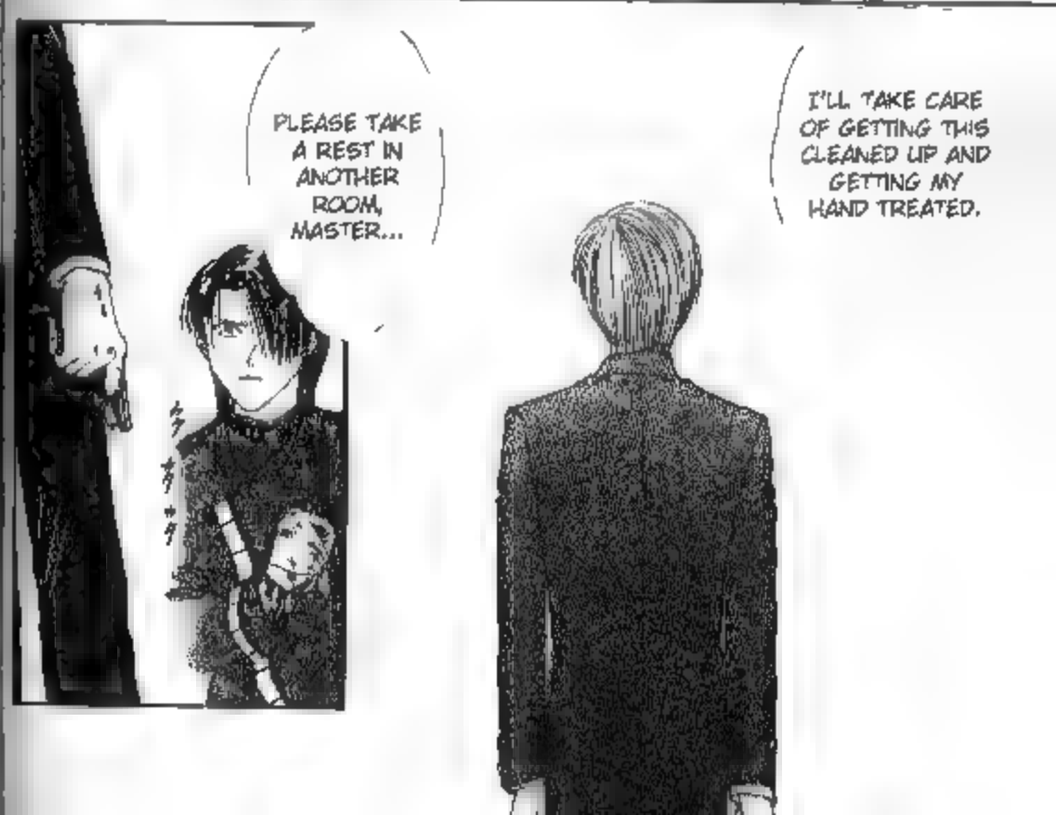
WHOA

HUH?
LET'S GO. THE CAR'S WAITING
!!

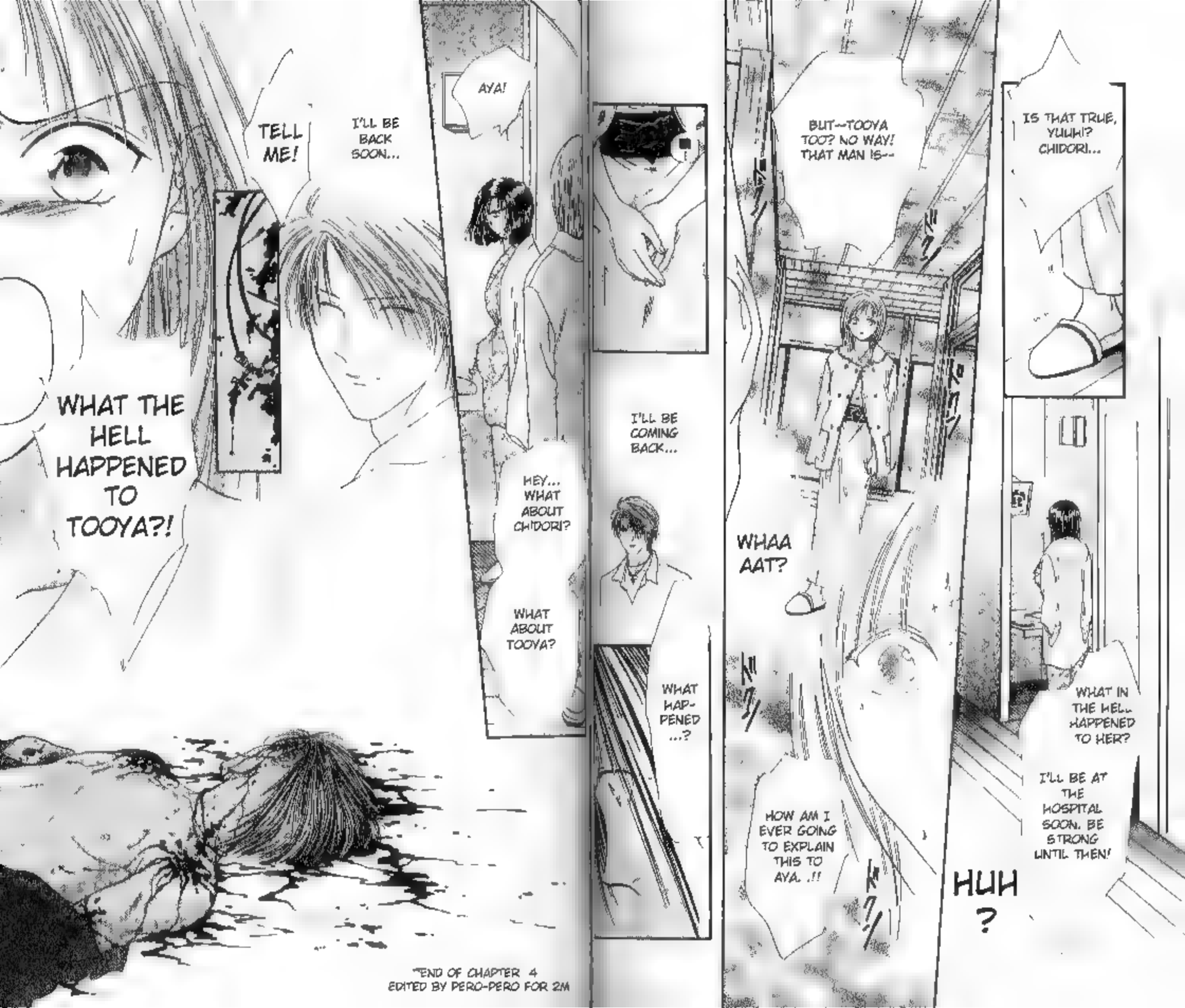
PLEA SE ..
COME BACK .
EVERY-ONE

TO...
TO...
TOOYA?


IF THAT'S THE END OF TOOYA... THEN IT WAS FAR TOO SOON.
THE CHIEF HAS A VERY PROFES-SIONAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS THINGS LIKE THIS, BUT I'LL TRY AND EXPLAIN IT TO HIM.


PLEASE TAKE A REST IN ANOTHER ROOM, MASTER...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF GETTING THIS CLEANED UP AND GETTING MY HAND TREATED.

WHAT THE... WAS THE SCENE I JUST SAW... A DREAM?
DID I TAKE A NAP WITHOUT REALIZING IT?
THIS UNEASY FEELING...
DID I..
WHY HAVE I BEEN FEELING THIS WAY SO MUCH--NO!
COULD IT BE...?
THAT'S IMPOSSI-BLE!!
AKI... MIKAGE ..?
SHISO


TELL ME!
I'LL BE BACK SOON...
AYA!
HEY... WHAT ABOUT CHIDORI?
WHAT ABOUT TOOYA?
I'LL BE COMING BACK...
WHAT HAP-PENED ...?
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO TOOYA?!
BUT--TOOYA TOO? NO WAY! THAT MAN IS--
IS THAT TRUE, YUUH!? CHIDORI...
WHAA AAT?
WHAT IN THE HELL HAPPENED TO HER?
I'LL BE AT THE HOSPITAL SOON. BE STRONG UNTIL THEN!
HOW AM I EVER GOING TO EXPLAIN THIS TO AYA. .!!
HUH ?

"END OF CHAPTER 4
EDITED BY PERO-PERO FOR 2M

TOOYA TOLD ME THAT HE'D GO AND SAVE THEM, AND NOT TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT.
HE ALSO WANTED TO CHECK ON THE PROGRESS THE MIKAGE HAVE ON THE RESTORATION OF THE HAGOROMO.
CHIDORI
I FOUND A CLUE ABOUT THE HAGO-ROMO IN KANAGAWA.
AYA...! YOU'VE GOT TO BE STRONG NOW ..
CHIDORI ... CHIDORI IS...
WHAT HAPPENED TO TOOYA AND CHIDORI?! WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?!
DON'T LEAVE IT AT THAT! FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED!
HEY, SUZUMI!!

ズキン
ズキン
ズキン
ズキン
EVEN SO, HE MUST BE FINE.
HE'S AMAZINGLY TOUGH--
...AYA?!
IT... HURTS...
AND NOTHING SINCE...
THEY HEARD A GUNSHOT WHILE EVERYTHING WAS WINDING DOWN. THEY TRIED TO REACH HIM CONSTANTLY, BUT DIDN'T GET A RESPONSE ...
SHOUTA... IS SAFE. TOOYA SAVED HIM... SO I WAS TOLD.
WHAT ABOUT TOOYA?
TELL ME..

DOCTOR HOWEL..?
AYA!! WAKE UP---!!
..MY STOMACH..!!

IT'S A DIRECT ORDER FROM THE CHIEF. AFTER THE AUTOPSY HIS TISSUE AND THE REST OF THE REMAINS WILL BE KEPT AS SAMPLES FOR FURTHER STUDY.
!!
EVEN AFTAR HE'S DEAD...

WHAT THE--!
THE CHIEF'S GOIN TO KEEP ON USIN' H.M?!?!
AYE!

HORRIBLE... TOO CRUEL!
TOOYA... , NO.. I CAN'T BELIEVE... IMPOSSIBLE. . THIS IS---
MAY WE PROCEED, DOCTOR HOWELL?
I HAVE TO DELIVER THIS FOR THE ALTOPSY.

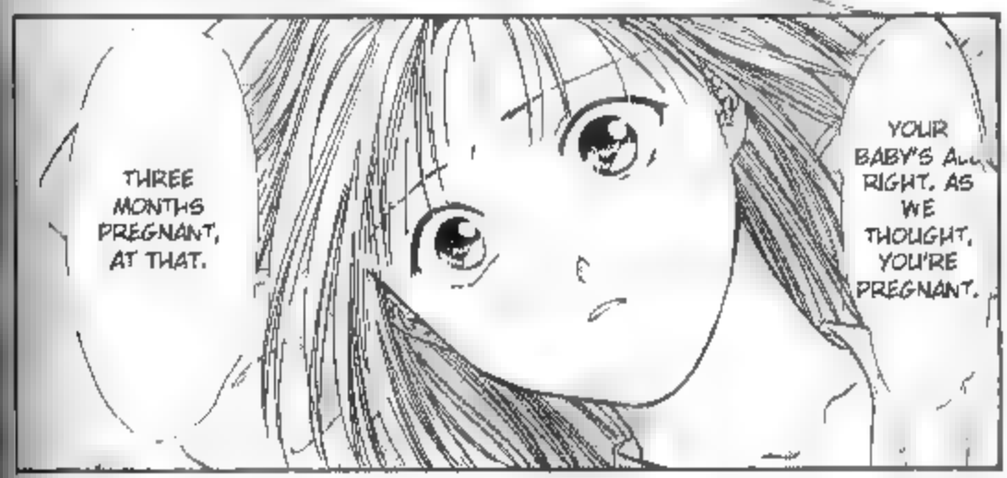
IT'S NO USE!! I'LL NEVER MANAGE TO GET AWAY LIKE THIS...SO ..
I'M AWFLY SORRY, TOOYA!!
IF I CAN'T GET YOU BACK TO AYA AT LEAST ..
I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE PLACE YOU ALWAYS HAD ON YOUR MIND...
IT'LL BE ALRIGHT, TOOYA! I WILLINGLY LET 'EM TAKE YOU APART PIECE BE PIECE--!
SHIT!!

LET HIM SLEEP FOR A WHILE IT'S RATHER UNFORTUNATE THAT HE FOUND OUT ABOUT THE RESTORATION OF THE HAGOROMO.
SO IT'S ALEC, THIS TIME. EVERY FOOL WITH HALF A MIND IS DOING THEIR OWN THING TODAY. ASSAM SHOT ONE OF THE C-GENOMA, AND WEI AND SHISO KILLED TOOYA!
CHIEF, IS IT ALL RIGHT TO KEEP SHISO SEDATED ?
ACCORDING TO WEI, HE REVERTED TO AKI FOR A MOMENT... I GUESS THE SHOCK OF KILLING TOOYA CALLED HIM BACK FROM HIS SLUMBER.
TO THE SEA!
ANYWAY .. WHO WERE YOU REALLY, TOOYA... AFTER ALL--
RRRR
I SEE .. VERY WELL.

MY BABY...
TOOYA'S ...
AYA... TOOYA HAS TO BE ALL RIGHT... THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT RIGHT NOW IS YOUR BABY...
LEAVE ME ALONE !!
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE... PLEASE. .
TOOYA

THIS PLACE...
THE OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY DEPARTMENT! I'M GLAD... I WAS WORRIED THAT YOU'D HAD THE SAME SITUATION I DID.
EH?

AYA, YOU--
AYA! YOU'RE AWAKE...


THREE MONTHS PREGNANT, AT THAT.
YOUR BABY'S ALL RIGHT. AS WE THOUGHT, YOU'RE PREGNANT.

WHY DOESN'T TOOYA COME BACK?
IS AYA STILL LIKE THAT?
WHY... EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN WAITING SO LONG.
SO... CHIDORI .. HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHY AREN'T YOU MOVING ANY MORE?
IT'S ALL LIES, EVERY-THING... I WON'T BE DECEIVED!
THIS MORNING... I SAW HIM... IN A SEA OF BLOOD... STOP GIVING ME THESE BIZARRE DREAMS, CERES!
SAY SOMETHING... THIS CAN'T BE REAL!!

WOULD YOU, PLEASE? I'M SORRY, SHURO, I KNOW YOU'RE BUSY WITH GETTING READY FOR NEXT MONTH'S CONCERT... CHIDORI WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
I CAN'T EVEN SAY A THING TO AYA!
WAS SHE...
I'LL TALK TO AYA. SHE COULD END UP LOSING THE BABY, TOO.
AYA! IT'S ME.. SHURO.
I'M COMING IN!

YEAH... IT'S BEEN HALF A MONTH SINCE THE FUNERAL FOR CHIDORI AND THE OTHERS. BUT SHE'S STILL PRETTY SHAKEN OVER IT. SHE'S NOT EATING PROPERLY. ME TOO...
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN HAVING A NIGHTMARE, TOO. IT JUST DOESN'T FEEL REAL AT ALL.

I JUST KEEP FLASHING BACK TO THAT... CHIDORI'S WEIGHT... TOOYA'S VOICE... I CAN'T STOP SHAKING.
I CAN'T GET OVER IT THIS TIME...!!
I HEARD.. I HEARD THAT SHE'S.. SHE'S HAVING. .
.....

I'M HOME...
TOOYA?
I KNOW YOU'RE HOME... RIGHT?
YOU'RE HERE, AREN'T YOU?
AYA...?!
!
NIGATA
AYA... ?!

...u...
AR...
YOU SAID 'I'LL BE BACK SOON'...
YOU SAID WE'D LIVE TOGETHER FOREVER. .
. LIAR...
LIAR !!
YOU SAID YOU'D FINALLY FOUND ME. .

TOOYA AA.....
HEY...
WHERE ARE YOU..
ANSWER MEEE.. ..!

TOOYAAA!!
HE MUST BE FINE... AMAZINGLY TOUGH... HE'S ALL RIGHT...
NO... THE TRUTH IS, I KNOW MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE...
THAT TOOYA'S GONE...
TO... YA...
AND THAT NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WAIT, HE'S NEVER COMING BACK!

THE BABY
NO, I REALLY MEAN IT! PLEASE THANK YOUR BOYFRIEND FOR ME! THANKS TO YOU GUYS, THIS BABY WAS BROUGHT INTO THE WORLD...
UH...
I REALLY APPRECIATE WHAT YOU DID FOR ME THEN!
I HADN'T THOUGHT ABOUT THAT...
HUH?
AYA..?
I THOUGHT SO! I WASN'T SURE...
I SEE NOW.

AYA!
AFTER ALL THIS...
TOOYA... WHAT SHOULD I DO...
CHIDORI'S GONE ALSO...
I THOUGHT THAT WAS YOU... WELCOME BACK! ARE YOU BY YOURSELF?
OH!
WASN'T IT YOU AND YOUR BOYFRIEND WHO HELPED ME WITH MY DELIVERY?
DOCTOR.. KURO.. ZUKA...
..AH..

I HAVE TO PROTECT THIS CHILD... NO MATTER WHAT.
I WANT TO
TOOYA'S FAMILY... HIS OWN FLESH AND BLOOD...
AS A MOTHER...
I ALSO WANT TO HAVE THIS CHILD.
BY THE WAY... YOU SHOULD COUNT YOURSELF LUCKY THAT YOU SURVIVED WHEN YOU FELL INTO THE SADO STRAITS.
OH!! I ALMOST FORGOT-- I ASKED GENJI ABOUT THE HAGOROMO... HE SAYS THE FAMILY LINE OF TENNYO IN NIIGATA DIED OUT A LONG TIME AGO.

DOCTOR... WHY? HOW COME ..
HOW CAN I EXPLAIN... I THINK HE MUST'VE YEARNED FOR THIS... A FAMILY OF HIS OWN FLESH AND BLOOD, SO TO SPEAK... IT'S HIS OWN CHILD.
I GUESS TOOYA'S GOTTA BE THE HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD, EH?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, AYA?
YOU'RE STILL ONLY 17
TOOYA...
MUST'VE... YEARNED...

THIS TIME I'M GOING TO FACE THEM HEAD-ON.
I WON'T LET THOSE BASTARDS DO AS THEY LIKE WITH THE HAGOROMO.
I'M GOING TO THE MIKAGE.
YEAH... THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING, THOUGH.
TOOYA... CHIDORI... LOOK AT ME NOW.
I WON'T FAIL!
TAKE CARE, THEN.
I'LL BE SURE TO GIVE TOOYA A LECTURE ABOUT PREPARING HIMSELF TO BE A FATHER.
YOU'RE LIKE A REAL FATHER... DOCTOR...
FAREWELL.
THAT'S RIGHT, AYA... AND THEY MAY NOT BE THE LAST VICTIMS. WE KNOW NOT YET WHAT MAY HAPPEN TO THIS CHILD...
YES... TOOYA AND CHIDORI DIED FOR IT. .
THE HAGO-ROMO. .
FISHING WAS THEIR SPECIALTY... AND IT'S SAID THAT WHEN THEY WORE THE HAGOROMO, THEY'D TURN INTO FISH THEMSELVES.
IN FACT, HE TOLD ME THAT ABOUT A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, A STRANGE CORPSE THAT LOOKED LIKE A MIXTURE OF HUMAN AND FISH WASHED ASHORE.
YOU SURE? YOU DON'T NEED A RIDE?

END OF CHAPTER 5
EDITED BY PERO-PERO FOR 2M

THIS IS A REALLY IMPORTANT TIME FOR AYA AND THE BABY... WHAT'S TOOYA DOING?
THEN AYA WENT TO NIIGATA AFTER ALL?!
YEAH... BUT NOBODY'S AT THEIR APARTMENT? WE MIGHT'VE JUST MISSED EACH OTHER. SHE LEFT KUROZUKA'S PLACE LATE LAST NIGHT.
IT'LL BE OKAY! LOOKS LIKE THEY HAD A FIGHT, AND IT SEEMS SHE'S GONE BACK TO TOKYO.
I SEE... I GUESS IT'S ALL RIGHT THEN... BUT LET ME KNOW IF SOMETHING HAPPENS NEXT TIME.
GOTCHA! THANKS A LOT!
HEY... WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?
YUUHI-- SUZUMI-- SHURO--I'M SORRY.
FOR MY SAKE, FOR THE HAGOROMO, AND FOR THE MIKAGE.. I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO THANK THEM.
WHAT??
TOOYA.
I SHOULD'VE GONE TO THE MIKAGE MUCH EARLIER.
CHIDORI .. SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE DIED.

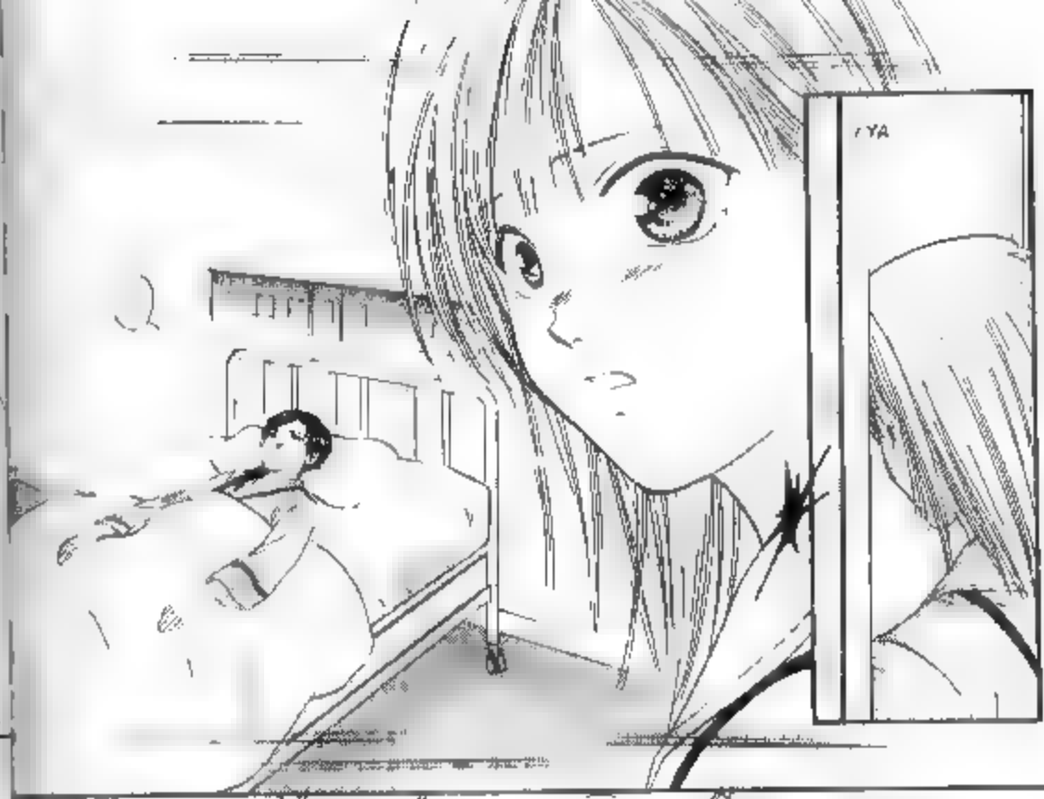
SHURO?!
I TOLD YOU TO COME BACK ON TIME!! DON'T MAKE ME WORRY--!
DAMNIT, THAT HURT, BOSS!
DON'T SIT AROUND IDLE SO MUCH, THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT TIME!
YEAH, I'VE--
IS THAT SO... ALL RIGHT, I GOT IT.
AYA--!!
I'M OKAY! JUST WORKING TOO HARD, BOSS...
AH--!! MISS AKASHI MUST'VE HURT HIM WHEN SHE THREW THE SCRIPT--
NAH. IT'S JUST ANEMIA...
NO WAY... HAVEN'T YOU HAD ANEMIA OFTEN OF LATE? YOU SHOULD GO SEE A DOCTOR AT LEAST ONCE...
AYA... YOU COULDN'T BE...
SHURO !!
SHURO, DON'T WORRY YOURSELF ABOUT THIS. JUST CONCENTRATE ON YOUR JOB, AYA'S A STRONG GIRL! SHE'LL BE JUST FINE.
RIGHT.

UNFORTU-
NATELY, I
HAVE TO GO
FAR AWAY
AGAIN!
I DEFINITELY
WANTED TO SEE
YOU BEFORE I GO,
NO MATTER WHAT.
ONE OF
MY
FRIENDS.
.. DIED.
KE...
SORRY,
MOM!
AND... THE
ONE WHO
CAME WITH
ME LAST
TIME...
TOOYA. .
I HAVEN'T
BEEN ABLE
TO COME
SEE YOU
FOR NEARLY
SIX MONTHS.
HE'S GONE
TOO.

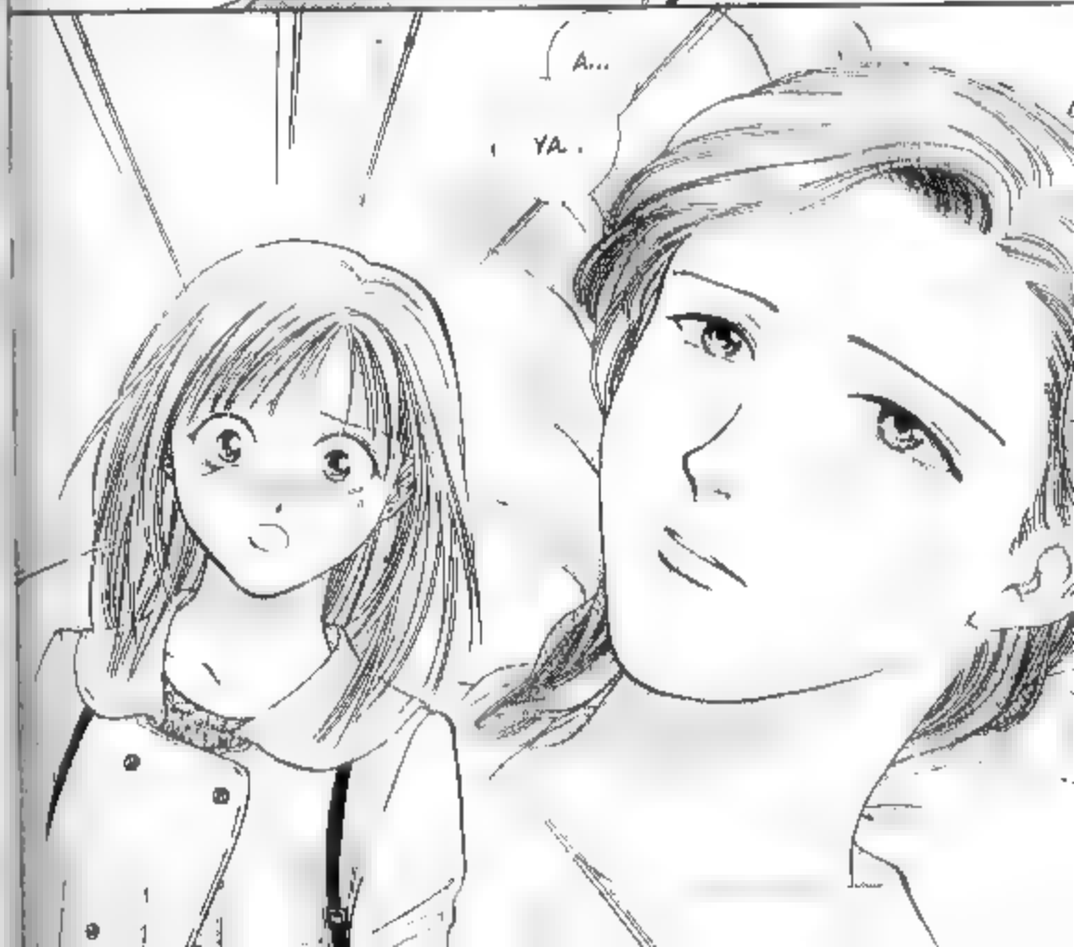
I REALIZED THAT I WAS JUST RUNNING AWAY FROM KAGAMI AND EVERYTHING ELSE AFTER ALL... AND IT TOOK LOSING TOOYA TO MAKE ME REALIZE THIS.
HARD TO BELIEVE, ISN'T IT? THE AYA YOU KNEW WAS JUST A LAZY, EMPTY-HEADED HIGH SCHOOL GIRL WHO WAS ALWAYS WEARING LOOSE SOCKS AND PLAYING AROUND WITH HER FRIENDS.
BUT NOW, I WANT TO LIVE... AND FIGHT TO PROTECT THIS BABY.
WELL MOM, I'VE GOTTA GO.
IT'LL BE OKAY. I KNOW I HAVE THE STRENGTH TO SURVIVE, NO MATTER WHERE OR HOW I END UP.
SO YOU NEED TO LIVE ON AS WELL, MOTHER! IF NOT FOR YOURSELF, THEN FOR DAD.

I DIDN'T FOR A LONG TIME. . DEEP IN MY HEART, I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND WHY YOU ATTACKED ME.
BUT MOM! NOW I UNDERSTAND ALL TOO WELL HOW YOU FELT WHEN YOU LOST DAD!
BUT... YOU LOVED DAD THAT MUCH. .
AND I KNOW YOU LOVED ME TOO. AND I .. IN ANOTHER SIX MONTHS,
I'M GOING TO BE A MOTHER TOO!

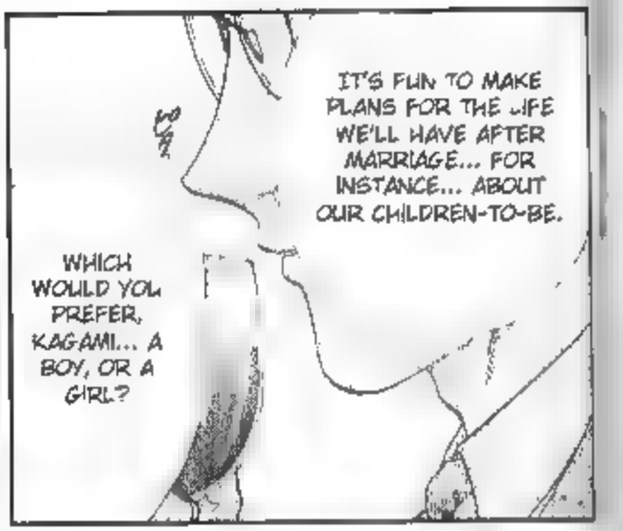
THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S ME! AYA!
A...
MOM!!
AYA...
I'M RIGHT HERE!!


YA

I'M HERE, MOTHER!
MOTHER!!


A...
YA.

...DON'T WANT...
EH?

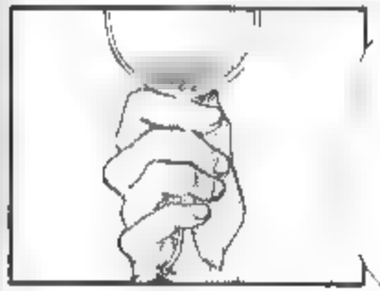

IT'S FUN TO MAKE PLANS FOR THE LIFE WE'LL HAVE AFTER MARRIAGE... FOR INSTANCE... ABOUT OUR CHILDREN-TO-BE.
WHICH WOULD YOU PREFER, KAGAMI... A BOY, OR A GIRL?

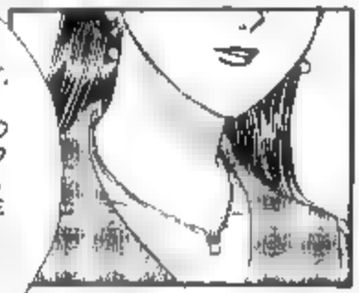
I DON'T WANT
ANY CHILDREN OF MY OWN.

AH, OF COURSE! THERE'S NO REAL HURRY.
OH! MY FATHER IS GOING TO..

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE HAD A RELAXING DINNER LIKE THIS, HASN'T IT?

YEAH... I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR A LARGE PROJECT.
THAT'S WHY I HAD TO POSTPONE OUR WEDDING... PLEASE GIVE MY BEST REGARDS TO THE PRESIDENT.
I TAKE IT YOU'VE BEEN RATHER BUSY WITH YOUR WORK?




DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. MY FATHER EVEN ENCOURAGED ME TO DO TRAINING FOR MARRIED LIFE. AND YOU KNOW... SOME PEOPLE SAY THE WAITING MAKES IT ALL THE MORE SWEETER, HM?

SO THAT'S A HUMAN WOMAN.. HM.
...NEXT IN THE NEWS, A YOUNG MOTHER PUSHED HER OWN ONE-YEAR-OLD BABY OUT OF THE THIRD FLOOR OF HER CONDO.
THE EARTH? YOU'RE DOING IT FOR YOURSELVES, DON'T LIE.
NO WAY--! WE..., LET'S SEE THE NEXT..
PRESENTLY, THE NORTHERN COUNTRYSIDE IS USING GUERILLA...
ARE LEAVING AN ENVIRON-MENT THAT'S GOOD FOR THE EARTH...

!
CASE... THIS WAS PERPETRATED BY A FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD BOY...
I'M SORRY, CHIEF, BUT I HAVE SOMETHING TELL YOU...
WHAT.

BE A SUPERIOR PERSON. .
I KNOW YOU MUST BE FEELING LIKE, 'NOT AGAIN!'
RECENTLY THERE HAVE BEEN FAR TOO MANY CASES OF MOTHERS ABUSING THEIR CHILDREN AND ENDING UP KILLING THEM.
KAGAMI!
MOM! I'M SORRY, MOM! I'LL DEFINITELY BE NUMBER ONE NEXT TIME...
IT'S SAID THAT SOCIETY IS SICK BUT CHILDREN ARE ALSO UNDER TREMENDOUS PRESSURE
AT LEAST TRY TO BE WORTHY OF THE NAME 'MIKAGE!'

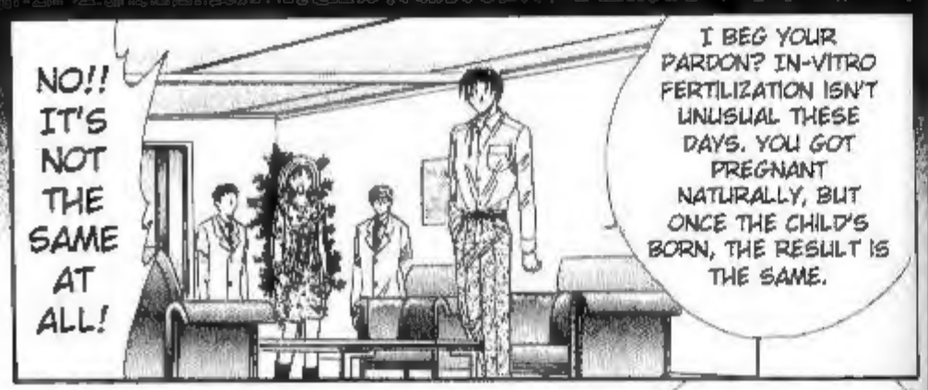
SETTLE DOWN, CERES! DON'T COME OUT UNTIL I'M REALLY IN TROUBLE!
I'M SURPRISED, DEAR AYA. I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO COME FACE ME YOURSELF.
OH YES, HOW REMISS OF ME. .
AYA
HE LOOKS SO DIFFERENT
I'D BEEN PLANNING TO CELEBRATE IT FOR YOU--I AM YOUR COUSIN, AFTER ALL.
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PREGNANCY.
ARE YOU?! HOW CAN YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT, WHEN YOU'VE TAKEN AWAY THOSE I LOVE!

AYA...

YOU CAME TO TALK WITH ME, RIGHT?
IF YOU WANT TO UNDERSTAND, THEN CALM DOWN AND FOLLOW ME...
I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE PLACE YOU'LL BE LIVING FOR A WHILE.
THESE DON'T MAKE VERY GOOD HANDCUFFS, YOU KNOW.
NO WORRIES. YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY GOING TO RUN AWAY ON US. AFTER ALL, THE HAGOROMO THAT YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR IS HERE.
WELL... WHERE DO YOU WANT ME TO START? WE HAVE PLENTY OF TIME--OH, HAVE YOU EATEN DINNER YET?
OF COURSE, IT'S NOT COMPLETE YET.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO CHIDORI?
WHY HAVE YOU BEEN COLLECTING THE C-GENOMERS HERE?
BUT IT'S NOT JUST HER, IS IT?
YUUKI TOLD ME THAT CHIDORI HAD UNDERGONE SURGERY!
SO MANY QUESTIONS, ALL AT ONCE...

17
WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A LOOK?
THESE ARE OVA THAT WE EXTRACTED FROM YOUR FRIEND. WHAT WE KEEP HERE IS THE OVA OF THE C-GENOME'S DAUGHTERS.
WE CROSS THEIR OVA WITH THE SPERM OF CERTAIN... SELECTED PEOPLE.
OF COURSE, WE EXAMINE THE GENES FIRST TO ENSURE DIVERSITY.
AFTER FERTILIZATION, WE TRANSPLANT THEM BACK INTO THE WOMB, AND PRODUCE CHILDREN.
HUH ...
CHIEF! YOU'RE AREN'T--YOU AREN'T REALLY GOING TO SHOW HER THAT ROOM?
DON'T CONCERN YOURSELF. SHE--CERES--IS THE GENESIS MOTHER OF THIS LINE. I WANT HER TO UNDERSTAND THIS PROPERLY.
I'LL EXPLAIN ABOUT THE HAGOROMO TO CERES IN PERSON. .
WELL, LET'S START WITH THE FIRST QUESTION. FOLLOW ME...
BRING OUT CHIDORI KURUMA... PARASH TYPE-A.

DON'T YOU TOUCH ME!!
YOU INHUMAN... CHIDORI'S BODY... WITHOUT PERMIS-SION...
JUST WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE? YOU SON OF A BITCH!


NO!! IT'S NOT THE SAME AT ALL!
I BEG YOUR PARDON? IN-VITRO FERTILIZATION ISN'T UNUSUAL THESE DAYS. YOU GOT PREGNANT NATURALLY, BUT ONCE THE CHILD'S BORN, THE RESULT IS THE SAME.

WE CAN GIVE THEM AN EXCELLENT ENVIRONMENT AND EDUCATION FROM THE VERY START...
AS YOU SAID, WE HANDLED THE FERTILIZATION ARTIFICIALLY. THE CHILDREN WHO WILL BE BORN ARE SUPERIOR IN VARIOUS WAYS.

WHAT...
THE...
WHAT THE HELL IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
YOU LOOK PALE. SHALL WE HEAD INTO A RECEPTION ROOM?
WHAT!!
HOWEVER, UNFORTUNATE AS IT MAY BE THAT MISS KURUMA PASSED ON, HALF OF THE C-GENOME ARE PREGNANT MOTHERS LIKE YOU.
SOME OF THEM WERE VIRGINS, BUT ALL OF THEM GAVE THEIR CONSENT IN THIS.

MORNING SICKNESS. AS I SAID, WE HAVE FACILITIES FOR CHILDBEARING, SO YOU NEEDN'T WORRY YOURSELF.

HOWEVER, HUMAN BEINGS ARE A LITTLE MORE COMPLEX. ALTHOUGH I JUST HAD SEX, THERE WAS NO LOVE INVOLVED, AND I DON'T HAVE ANY INTENTION OF PASSING ON MY SEED.
I SIMPLY DO IT TO SATISFY MY BIOLOGICAL DESIRES. THE FACT IS, WE SEEK PLEASURES OF THE MOMENT--EVEN THOUGH WE'RE JUST PUPPETS DANCING ON THE STRINGS OF EVOLUTION.
LONG AGO, ASEXUAL CREATURES DIVIDED INTO MALES AND FEMALES TO UNITE DIFFERENT GENES AND REORGANIZE THEM. THAT STIMULATED THE PROCESS OF EVOLUTION,
AND FROM THIS COMES THE STRENGTH TO OVERCOME ANY ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES AND DISEASE-CAUSING GERMS--SO THAT THEY CAN CONTINUE REPRODUCING.
THE THOUGHT OF THOSE STUPID WOMEN BRINGING CHILDREN INTO THIS WORLD LITTERLY TERRIFIES ME.
YOU KNOW, EVERY DAY THERE ARE BRAINLESS LITTLE BITCHES WHO NEVER HESITATE TO SELL THEIR BODIES TO THEIR EQUALLY BRAINLESS MALE COUNTERPARTS.
OH MY GOD...

I SEE.... YOU THINK THAT IF THERE'S 'LOVE', THEN...? WELL, LET ME ASK YOU A QUESTION... WHY DO MALES AND FEMALES MATE?
THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE-- TO CARRY ON THEIR BLOODLINE.
IT'S NOTHING BUT REPRODUCTIVE BEHAVIOR INCORPORATED INTO ALL GENES.
WE LOVED AND DESIRED EACH OTHER NATURALLY...
BUT I LOVED TOOYA!!
BECAUSE OF THAT, I HAVE THIS CHILD--AND I CAN TELL HIM THAT HE WAS BROUGHT INTO THIS WORLD BECAUSE HIS MOTHER AND FATHER LOVED EACH OTHER!!

WHAT A LOAD! JUST WHO THE FUCK DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, SPOUTING THAT KIND OF SHIT?! YOU TALK LIKE YOU'RE SOME KIND OF GOD!
CERES IS THE PINNACLE OF THE FEMININE FORM, AND SHE POSSESSES AMAZING INTELLIGENCE AND ABILITIES AS WELL. IF WE'RE TO LIVE OUTSIDE OF THIS FRAGILE EARTH, ALL THE BETTER, SINCE THE TENNYO HAVE ADAPTIBILITY FOR SPACE...
IF I DIDN'T DO THIS, SOMEONE ELSE WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!! EVEN THIS BARELY SCRATCHES THE SURFACE. YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH. LOVE IS NOTHING BUT AN ILLUSION TO MAKE REPRODUCTION POSSIBLE.

MEN AND WOMEN BETRAY AND HATE EACH OTHER SO EASILY... AND KILL EACH OTHER OFF IN THEIR HEARTS.
YOU'RE WRONG!!
THAT'S NOT ALL!
IT'S INEVITABLE-- LOVE FLICKERS AND FADES.
OH YES... I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU...

AYA..
NO!! MY MOTHER LOVED ME, THAT'S WHY--

ONLY SUPERIOR CREATURES CAN SURVIVE IN AN EVOLVING WORLD... HOW CAN IT BE WRONG TO PREPARE OUR NEW DESCENDANTS FOR THE RUIN THAT WILL COME OF THE FUTURE?
EVEN IF NOT ALL OF THEM ARE LIKE THAT, IT ENDS UP THE SAME IF THEY CAN'T STOP IT AND PRETEND THEY DON'T KNOW IT'S HAPPENING.

HOW MANY OF THESE FOOLS DOOM THEIR CHILDREN TO DIE WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT BY DOING SO, HEEDLESS OF THE LAWS OF NATURE?
THEN AGAIN, YOU'RE QUITE FAMILIAR WITH THAT MISTAKE, AREN'T YOU?

TOOYA
WELL,
FINALLY YOU'VE DECIDED TO SHOW YOURSELF...
CERES!!
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU...
END OF VOLUME 12
EDITED BY PERO-PERO FOR 2M

TOOYA
THUMP
SMEARED WITH BLOOD...
THUMP
TOOYA...
AS A MEMENTO OF TOOYA...
THUMP THUMP
WHO DIED, NEVER AGAIN TO SPEAK WORDS OF LOVE... NOR EVEN TO SEE THE FACE OF HIS CHILD.... SUCH A PITY.